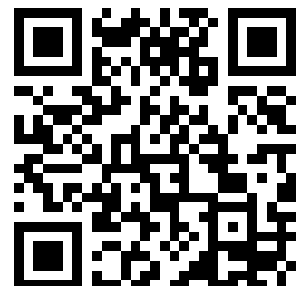

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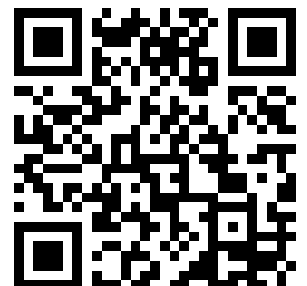
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EGER AND CRIME



Eger and Grime.

LONDON
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NEW-STREET SQUARE

Eger and Grime:

An Early English Romance.

EDITED FROM

BISHOP PERCY'S FOLIO MS., ABOUT 1650 A.D.

BY

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[The contractions of the MS. are extended in italics in the printed text.]

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YHABBU

Eng. 4 -17-10

Eger and Grime.¹

[In Six Parts.—Percy.]

OF this once popular, and deservedly popular romance, there are two copies known—the following one of the Folio, now printed from the Folio for the first time; and a copy printed at Aberdeen in 1711,² of which an abstract is given by Mr. Ellis in his “Specimens of Early English Metrical Romances,” and a reprint, by Mr. Laing, in his “Early Metrical Tales,” in 1826. The latter copy is evidently a much diluted version of the old romance. “The printer,” says Mr. Ellis, “has evidently followed a very imperfect MS., with which also he seems to have taken great liberties; and the story, as it now stands, is so obscurely told, that the catastrophe is quite unintelligible, and has been in the present abstract supplied by conjecture.”

The diffuseness of the said copy may be appreciated when we state that it consists of 2860 lines, of which 2782 contain the story given in the Folio in 1473 lines, in little more than half the space. The last 60 furnish a feeble continuation of the original story. Sir Graham (so Sir Grime is called there) dies; Sir Eger's bride discovers the trick that has been played upon her, and betakes herself to a religious life. Sir Eger fights in Holy Land. Returning, and finding his affronted wife dead, he marries Sir Graham's widow. “This romance,” says Mr. Ellis, “is by no means deficient in merit; but I do not know of its

¹ This Old Piece is not much inferior to one of Ariosto's Gates.—P. *Grime* is *Grine* in the MS., with a mark of contraction over the *n*.—F.

² Mr. Laing informs the editors that he possesses an edition twenty-four years earlier than this one. “It was a be-

quest,” he writes, “by my old friend Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Esq., and has this title: ‘*The History of Sir Eger, Sir Grahame, and Sir Gray-Steel*. Printed in the year 1687.’ It is a little 18mo., pp. 72, black letter, without either the place of printing or printer's name.”

existence in a perfect state, either in MS. or in print, unless it be preserved entire in Bishop Percy's folio."

Every one who cares for old romances will, we think, find pleasure in the Folio version now at last brought to the light. We see no reason for suspecting that it deviates from the original romance in respect of its story. The spelling and the language are considerably corrupted or modernised; but the incidents and circumstances remain as they were. The frame of the picture is damaged; but the picture lives. In the later editions of his "Reliques," in his list of Ancient Metrical Romances, Bishop Percy just mentions his copy. In 1800 he communicated an account of it to Dr. Robert Anderson, for the information of Sir Walter (then plain Walter) Scott, the substance of which is reproduced by Dr. Leyden in his remarks on the romances mentioned in the "Complaint of Scotland" (edited by him in 1801). It is printed *verbatim* in Mr. Laing's Preface to his reprint of the romance.

Sir Walter Scott, after speaking of "Gawen and Galogras," "Galaran of Galloway," and "Sir Tristrem," as romances in which "there does not appear the least trace of a French original," and probably "compiled by Scottish authors from the Celtic traditions which still floated amongst their countrymen," subjoins the hypothesis, that "to this list we might perhaps be authorised in adding the 'History of Sir Edgar and Sir Grime;' for although only a modernised copy is now known to exist, the language is unquestionably Scottish, and the scene is laid in Carrick in Ayrshire." We see no reason for referring it to Celtic traditions. But it may, perhaps, be of domestic growth. Certainly this romance enjoyed an early and extensive popularity in Scotland. Perhaps the earliest mention¹ of it belongs to the year 1497; when the Treasurer's accounts inform us: "ix s" was paid to "twa fithelaris² that Sang Gray Steil to the king," James IV., then

¹ See Leyden's *Complaint of Scotland* and Mr. Laing's Preface to his reprint.

² Not "Sachelaris." That reading is, as Mr. Laing informs the editors, a transcriber's blunder.

holding his court at Stirling. James V., as we learn from Hume of Godscroft's history of the family of Douglas, "when he was young, loved" Archibald Douglas of Kilspendie "singularly well, for his ability of body, and was wont to call him Gray Steill." Then, as we have already intimated, the romance is referred to in the "Complaynt of Scotland," 1549, as one well and widely known. Sir David Lyndsay, about the same time—who indeed has been set forth by some critics as the author of the "Complaynt," mentions it more than once: as in his "Squire Meldrum"—

I wate he faucht that day als weill
As did Schir Gryme againes Gray Steill—

in his Interlude of "The Auld Man and his Wife"—

This is the sword that slew Gray Steill
Necht half a myle beyond Kinneill.

A poem, written in 1574, by John Davidson, then one of the ministers of Edinburgh, published twenty-one years afterwards at Edinburgh, says that poets have in all time delighted to celebrate worthy persons:

Even of Gray Steill, who list to luke,
Their is set fourth a meikle buke.

"William, first Earl of Gowrie," says Mr. Laing, "is denominated Gray Steill in one of Logan's letters, produced as a proof of that alleged and mysterious conspiracy, which in all probability shall [Anglicè will] remain a question of doubtful interpretation." Subsequently, allusions to our romance abound. "In a curious MS. volume," to quote again from Mr. Laing's valuable Preface, "formerly in the possession of Dr. Burney, entitled 'An Playing Booke for the Lute;' 'Noted and collected' at Aberdeen by Robert Gordon, in the year 1627, is the air of 'Gray Steel;' and there is a satirical poem on the Marquis of Argyle, printed in 1686, which is said 'to be composed in Scottish rhyme,' and is 'appointed to be sung according to the tune of Old Gray Steel.'"

"Besides these allusions," adds Mr. Laing, "other evidence of the popularity of this romance might have been adduced from common sayings and proverbial expressions which are current to this day in various parts of the country, although all knowledge of the hero and his exploits have long since ceased to be remembered.

"Indeed, this romance would seem, along with the poems of Sir David Lyndsay, and the histories of Robert the Bruce, and of Sir William Wallace, to have formed the standard productions of the vernacular literature of the country. The author of the 'Scots Hudibrass,' originally printed at London, 1681, under the title of 'A Mock Poem, or the Whiggs Supplication,' in describing Ralph's Library says:

And here lyes books, and there lyes ballads,
As Davie Lindsay, and Gray Steel,
Squire Meldrum, Bevis, and Adam Bell,
There Bruce and Wallace.

"To this effect, John Taylor, 'the water poet,' a noted character in the reign of Charles I., speaks of Sir Degre, Sir Grime, and Sir Gray Steele, as having the same popularity in Scotland that the heroes of other romances enjoyed in their respective countries, 'filling (as he quaintly says) whole volumes with the ayrie imaginations of their unknowne and unmatchable worths.'"¹

The reader will not, we think, be surprised at the wide popularity these many allusions imply. The poem is not only valuable for its faithful picture of mediæval life, with its adventures, and gallantry, and that mysterious atmosphere we called "romantic," but for the force and beauty of its story. It has charms beyond those which attract the antiquarian, or the historical eye. The subject of the piece is the true and tried friendship of Sir Eger and Sir Grime. Such a friendship was a

¹ Argument to the verses in praise of the Great O'Toole, originally printed 1623, 8vo., and included in Taylor's works, 1634, folio, sign. Bb. 2.

favourite subject with the old romance-writers. See "Amys and Amylion," and "Athelstan" (printed from a Caius College MS. in "Reliquiæ Antiquæ"). What Damon and Pythias were to each other, and Pylades and Orestes, that were Eger and Grime.

They were fellows good & fine;
They were nothing sib of blood,
But they were sworn Brethren good;
They kept a chamber together at home;
Better love loved there never none.

Of such a kind was the fast friendship of Wallace and Graham, the recollection of which, perhaps, may have induced later Scotch reciters or editors of the story to change Grime's name into Graham. Graham had become to them the ideal representative of the friend that sticks closer than a brother.

This romance then, like the Fourth Book of the "Fairy Queen," sings of friendship. It sings how a true knight stood faithfully by his friend when misfortune overtook him, and fought his battle, and won it, and was rewarded with the same happiness which he had so nobly striven to secure for his friend—success in love. The causes of his friend's misfortune are highly characteristic of the age in which the romance was probably composed—the end of the fourteenth or beginning of the fifteenth century. They are: (1) Sir Eger's own adventurous spirit. He is a younger brother, who, "large of blood and bone," but possessing no broad lands, has to fight his way in the world. "Ever he justs and he fights." Ever unvanquished, he wins the love of Winglaine, Earl Bragas' daughter, who has set her heart on marrying such an one. But with her love pledged to him, and with all his honours, he cannot rest from seeking adventure. He hears of a fresh enemy; he sets off in quest of him.

Upon a time Eger he would forth fare
To win him worship, as he did see;
Whereby that he might praised be
Above all knights of high degree.

B

(2) Winglaine's inflexible resolve to give her hand to one who had never known defeat. The new enemy, against whom her lover is gone, is the formidable Sir Gray-Steel. The lover comes back from his encounter with him stained with defeat.

So he came home upon a night
Sore wounded, & ill was he dight;
His knife was forth, his sheath was gone;
His scabbard by his thigh was done;
A truncheon of a spear he bore,
And other weapons he bare no more.
On his bedside he set him down;
He siked sore, & fell in swoon.

Winglaine overhears the miserable story he gives his much sorrowing friend of his expedition; and her heart is hardened against him. He has committed what is in her eyes an unpardonable offence—he has been beaten. She laughs to scorn the version of the affair, which the *fidus Achates* circulates, to protect his friend's fair fame. She listens to Sir Grime's intercession with supreme obduracy. She will no longer lay any commands of hers upon him, she says.

All that while Eger was the knight
That wan the degree in every fight,
For his sake verily
Many a better I have put by
Therefore I will not bid him ride,
Nor at home I will not bid him abide;
Nor of his marriage I have nothing ado;
I wot not, Grime, what thou sayest thereto.

But poor, wounded Eger loves her as intensely as ever.

Such is the terrible distress from which friendship delivers him. If Eger can yet overthrow Gray-Steel, or be believed by Winglaine to have overthrown him, all may yet be well. The friend determines himself to go forth against the enemy, but to persuade the lady that her lover has gone. His generous scheme succeeds. He returns triumphant; and makes everybody believe that it is Eger returning so. Winglaine now relents, as she thinks Sir Eger has redeemed his honour; and, after some show

on his part of feigned indifference to her overtures, *prisca redit
venus*, and the happy day is fixed.

The Earl & Countess accorded soon ;
The Earl sent forth his messenger
To great lords far and near,
That they should come by the 15th day
To the marriage of his daughter gay.
And then Sir Eger, that noble knight,
Married Winglaine, that lady bright.
The feast it lasted forty days
With lords & ladies in royal arrays ;
And at the forty days end
Every man to his own home wend.

And in due time

Winglaine bare to Sir Eger
Fifteen children that were fair ;
Ten of them were sonnes wight,
And five, daughters fair in sight.

Such is the outline of this charming old tale. The central scene is the land of Beam. But the expeditions against Sir Gray-Steel into the Forbidden Country are described at great length and with excellent effect. The introduction of the lady who entertains and nurses, or advises the knights when engaged in them, and who eventually marries Sir Grime, is accompanied with most pleasant and graphic pictures of the lady's bower of chivalric times. As Winglaine represents the sterner side of the female character, Loosepain represents the gentler. Says Sir Eger :

The Moon shone fair, the stars cast light ;
Then of a Castle I get a sight,
Of a Castle & a Town ;
And by an arbour side I light down ;
And there I saw fast me by
The fairest bower that ever saw I.
A little while I tarried then,
And a lady came forth of a fresh Arbour ;
She came forth of that garden green,
And in that bower fain would have been.
She was clad in scarlet red
And all of fresh gold shone her head ;
Her rud was red as rose in rain,
A fairer creature never seen.
Methought her coming did me good.

She is full of gentle consideration for the wounded and vanquished knight—for his wounded spirit as well as for his pierced and bruised body.

The Lady lovesome under line
 With her white hands she did wash mine;
 And when she saw my right hand bare,
 Alas! my shame is much the mair!
 The glove was whole, the hand was nomen;
 Thereby she might well see I was overcomen;
 And she perceived that I thought shame;
 Therefore she would not ask my name.
 Nor at that word she said no mair,
 But all good easements I had there.

This gentle-souled lady proves an excellent doctor—

Why was she called Looselain?
 A better leech was none certain.—

(see vv. 243–328), and a most kindly nurse. *Haud ignara mali*—her betrothed had been slain by Sir Gray-Steel, and her brother too, in striving to avenge him—she endeavours to forget her own griefs while she “succours” the miserable Sir Eger; but ever and anon, in the midst of her tender, gracious nursing of him, they recur to her, and she must needs weep. The old romances paint few more beautiful touching pictures than this one:

She sat down by the bedside,
 She laid a psalter on her knee;
 Thereon she played full lovesomely;
 And yet for all her sweet playing,
 Ofttimes she had full still mourning;
 And her two maidens sweetly sang,
 And oft thé wept, or their hands wrang;
 But I heard never so sweet playing,
 And ever amongst so sore siking.
 In the night she came to me oft,
 And asked me whether I would ought,
 But always I said her nay,
 Till it drew near the break of day.

No wonder Sir Eger describes her afterwards as

. . . the gentlest of heart & will
 That ever man came until.

She receives Sir Grime with the same sweet hospitality—happily he did not need experience her leechcraft, either before or after his combat with Gray-Steel—disturbed by the same irrepressible sorrow.

Meat nor drink none would he,
He was so enamoured of that fair lady.

He discovers the secret of her tears.

"Sir," she said, "I must never be weel
Till I be avenged of Graysteel,
For he slew my brother, my fathers heir,
And also my own lord both fresh & fair;
For Sir Attelstan shold me have wedd,
But I came never in his bed." &c.

So Sir Grime rides forth against Sir Gray-Steel, not only as Eger's friend, but as Loosepain's lover. He rides with a lighter heart, therefore; around him the small birds singing, the flowers springing. The lady Loosepain, sitting at home in her chamber, thinks of him gone to the Forbidden Country.

At supper where she was set
Never a morsel might she eat.
"Ah!" she sayd, "now I think on that knight,
That went from me when the day was light!
Yesternight to the chamber I him led;
This night Graysteel has made his bed.
Alas! he is foul lost on him!
That is much pity for his kin!
For he is large of blood and bone;
And goodly nurture he lacketh none.
And he is fair in arms to fold,
He is worth to her his weight in gold,—
Woe is me for his love in his country!
She may think long or she him see!"
With that she thought on her Lord Attelstan
That the water out of her eyen ran.

Who is so hard-hearted as not to rejoice when at this juncture—

. . . Grime knocked at the chamber door,
And a maiden stood there on the floor.

"O madam!" she said, "Now is come that knight
That went hence when the day was light!"
And hastily from the board she rise,
And kissed him twenty sithe.
"How have you faren on your journey?"
"Full well, my love," Sir Grime did say. &c.

Of course the old, old, never wearisome *finale* follows. The brave, true, virgin knight

("I had never wife," he says, "nor yet lady.
I tell you truly by Saint John
I had never wife nor yet leman.")

marries the sweet tender-hearted lady. The betrothal—the handfasting—takes place at once; the marriage, after Sir Grime has revisited the land of Beam, and ensured the happiness of his friend, returning to Earl Gares' land—

There Sir Grime, that noble knight,
Married Loosepain, that lady bright,
A royal wedding was made then.

The third knight of the poem is Sir Gray-Steel. He is described as

. A venturous knight,
That kept a forbidden country both day & night,
And a fresh island by the sea,
Where castles were with towers hie.

The Forbidden Country was made an island by a river and the sea together. It was well furnished with parks, and palaces, and castles, and towers, and with watchmen. For the lord of it, his shield and spear were red; his steed so big as to make Sir Eger's by the side of it look but a foal; his spear was great and long. In the four quarters of his shield were a dragon, an unicorn, a bear, and a wild boar; in the midst "a ramping lion that would bite sore." His armour is of wonderful and lavish magnificence,

made of silver and gold, and precious stones. He carries a golden mace with a topas at the end of it. His horse's furniture is of the same splendid sort—reins of silk hung with bells of gold, saddle of selcamar,¹ fretted with golden bars, breastplate of Indian silk.² Moreover, his strength ebbed and flowed, being greatest at noon, least at midnight. He fought better on horseback than on foot. He was believed to be invincible. With his hands too he had

. . . A hundred knights & mo,
Shamefully driven them to dead
Without succour or any remed,

and made their ladies captive. He was wont to cut off the little finger of the right hand of those he slew or overthrew, probably for some purpose of sorcery.³ The features of this figure have evidently an Oriental cast. The brilliant opulence of Gray-Steel's appearance and his practice of witchcraft both point to an Oriental origin. He is a terrible infidel. At a later time, when an allegorical application of the old romances was the fashion; when they were being turned to uses never dreamt of by their prime authors, and it was insisted that "more was meant than met the ear"; when those tendencies were working that produced their most glorious result in the "Fairy Queen"; when men were attempting to use for new thoughts the old forms of expression, just as they were retaining for Protestantism the cathedrals that had so long re-echoed the liturgy

¹ Some rich stuff like *siclatoun*.—F.

² In an old English poem on the siege of Rouen, A.D. 1418, Henry is described as riding

. . . On a broune stede;
Of blak damaske was his wede;
A *peytrelle* of golde full bryȝt
Aboute his necke hyngo down riȝt.
Archæologia, vol. xxii.

The *peytrelle* or *poitral* was a piece of horse-furniture of this period. *Planché's British Costume*, p. 230.—F.

"Also the synne of here ornament, or of apparaile, as in thinges that apperteynen to rydyng, as in to many delicat horses . . . and in to curious harnoyes, as in sadelis, and bridils, croupours, and *peytrelle*, covered with precious clothing, and riche barres and plates of gold and of silver." Chaucer, *Persones Tale*, Poet. Works, ed. Morris, iii. 298.—F.

³ Compare the Hand of Glory in "The Antiquary"; in "Thalaba," book v. Fingers seem to have been used in a similar way.—H.

of Rome—at this time the “Forbidden Country” and Sir Gray-Steel may have had assigned them a fresh significance. The religious interpretation of them is obvious. The edition of 1711 reads for the Forbidden Country “The Land of Doubt.” This latter title cannot fail to remind us, if the former did, of certain adventures that befall the hero of the “Pilgrim’s Progress.” Bunyan must have been well familiar with the common versions circulating in his time of the old romances. Perhaps he may have heard a version of this very one from one of the many Scotchmen who for various reasons overran this country in the seventeenth century.

A supposed difficulty remains. We have seen that James, in his youthful days, nick-named a Douglas whom he then loved, his “Gray Steill.” “There might be some reason as to Lord Gowrie’s nick-name,” writes Mr. C. K. Sharpe, *apud* Mr. Laing’s Preface, “for it is plain that Gray Steill was a sort of magician; and Spottiswood says that Gowrie ‘was too curious, and said to have consulted with wizards,’ &c.; but for Lord Eglintoun, it is only known that he fought stoutly for the Solemn League and Covenant, was never vanquished by Sir Grime, and had no deeper dealings with the devil than the rest of his fellow Puritans.” With regard to Douglas, we should conjecture that the name was given him in banter. Affection often uses the seemingly most inapt terms. It expresses itself contrariously. It is much given to irony. It can convert the hardest names into terms of endearment. It can make the rudest speeches civil, the harshest titles complimentary, denunciations into caressings, blows into kisses. So there is no difficulty in James giving his favourite such a hard name. As to Lord Eglintone, if it is only “known that he fought stoutly for the Solemn League and Covenant,” quite enough is known to prepare us for the application of the most abusive terms to him. What with the great differences, and the endless bitter little

differences that "pitted" the face of his age, he must have been a very unique person indeed if he did not get called by every possible bad name at one time or another. Naturally enough, the popular taste, requiring brevity in a title, and fascinated by the mystery and weird air that surround Sir Gray-Steel, attached his name to the romance, though it celebrates him and two others; and so, as we have seen, it is often referred to "Graysteel."

We think our readers will agree with Percy's verdict that "it is one of the best of the ancient epic tales" preserved in the Folio—will perhaps extend their praise. It is, indeed, a poem of very high excellence, vivid, picturesque, terse, delicate, tender, vigorous. It breathes the very spirit of romance, and re-creates for us the old sights and scenes of romantic life in all their strange grotesque beauty. The knight-errant in his pride, and in his fall; the Forbidden Land with its weird lord; the castle standing out in the moonshine, as the broken knight rides away from the field of his shame; the scarlet-clad, gold-head-dressed lady who meets, and greets, and doctors, and nurses him; the wilderness and the forest; the wonderful sword Egeking, of whose "guider" "no man ever of woman born durst abide the face befor"; Sir Eger in "a window," reading books of romance; Winglaine on the walls seeing the waygate of her lover; Sir Grime taking his inn at a burgess's house; Loosepain playing her guest to sleep; the avenger riding about the plain in quest of the oppressor; the oppressor rushing on the avenger like a lion "in his wooddest time"; the fighting "together fell and sore, the space of a mile and something more"; the hacking, and swooning, and dying; the steeds left to themselves when their masters are dismounted, fighting furiously together after the example of their furiously fighting masters; the castle of stone hard by the terrible field, where the victor sees and hears "ladies, many a one, wringing, and wailing, and riving their hair, striking, and crying, with voices full clear"; the lady doing off his armour and searching

his wounds, and "never so sound as when she saw he had no death wound"—these are some of the pictures that our romance gives us; that teach us how unlike, and how like we are the men who played their parts some five centuries ago on the stage we now are occupying.—J. W. H.

In Beame dwells		IT fell sometimes ¹ in the Land of Beame, there dwelled a Lord within <i>that</i> realme, the greatest he was of renowne
	4	except the <i>King that</i> ware the crowne; thé called him to name Erle Bragas; he marryed a ladye was fayre of face;
Earl Bragas, and has		they had noe Child but a daughter younge, in the world was none soe fayre thing:
a lovely girl, Wing- layne, who'll marry no one unless	8	They called <i>that</i> Ladye winglayne ² ; [page 125 of MS.] husband wold she neuer haue none, ³ Neither for gold nor yett for good, nor for noe highnese of his blood, without he would with swords dent ⁴
he wins every battle he fights.	12	win euery battell where he went. soe there were many in <i>that</i> Realme rich, but they cold find but few such, for the Erle rydeth with such a route of Lords & knights hardye & stout. there was in <i>that</i> same time
Of two friends, Sir Grime of Garwicke	20	a curtoous <i>knight</i> called Sir Grime; & of Garwicke ⁵ Lord was hee; he was a wise man and a wittye. soe there was in <i>that</i> same place
and Sir Eger,	24	a young <i>Knight</i> men called Egace, but his name was Sir Eger, for he was but a poore bachlour,

¹ sometimes in MS.—F.

² Winglayne.—P.

³ nane.—P.

⁵ Garwicke, or rather Garnwicke. See

p. 143, v. 64 [of MS.]—P. Garwicke,

⁴ i.e. dint, as we say, *by meer dint of*,
&c.—P. Blow.—F.

l. 61.—F.

for his elder brother was liuande,¹
 28 & gouerned all his fathers Land.
 Egar was large of blood & bone,
 but broad Lands had hee none,
 but euermore he wan the honour
 32 through worshipp of his bright armour;
 & for lone *that* he was soe well taught,
 euer he lusted & hee fought;
 & because he was soe well proued,
 36 the Erles daughter shee him Loued.
 they Ladye granted her good will,
 her father sented² there soone till,³
 he was glad *that* shee wold,
 40 *that* shee wold in hart fold⁴
 for to take vntill her fere⁵
 a barn[n]⁶ or else a bacheleere.
 these *Knights* Sir Egar & Sir Grime,
 44 they were fellowes good & fine;
 they were nothing sib⁷ of blood,
 but they were sworne Bretheren good⁸;
 they kepted⁹ a chamber together att home;
 48 better lone Loved there never none.
 Vpon a time Egar he wold forth fare
 to win him worshippe, as he did ere,
 wherby *that* he might praysed bee
 52 aboue all knights of high degree.
 soe hee came home vpon a night,
 sore wounded, & ill was he dight:

the latter
wins every
fight,

and Wing-
layne
loves him.

Then Eger
goes out to
win fame,

but comes
home
wounded or
despolled.

¹ livande, i.e. living.—P.

² i.e. assented.—P.

³ i.e. to.—P.

⁴ either fold, as in folding sheep, fold in one's arms, "enclose or embrace in her heart," or as in folding a cloth, "turn in her heart."—F.

⁵ companion, mate, &c.—P.

⁶ baroune.—P. a hole in the MS.—F.

⁷ related.—P. "But th' Birtle folk are a dhyel on um sib an sib, rib an'

rib—o' ov a litter—Fittons an' Diggles, an' Fittons and Diggles o'er again." *Edwin Waugh's Sketches of Lancashire Life*, 1857, p. 206.—F.

⁸ Compare, in the *Romance of Athelston*, Rel. Ant. vol. 2, p. 86:

For love of here metyng thar,
They swoor hem weddyd brethryn for
ever mar;

In trewth the trewely dede hem bynde.—F.

⁹ kept.—P.

- his kniffe was forth, his sheath was gone,
 56 his scaberd by his thigh was done,
 a truncheon of a speare hee bore,
 & other weapons he bare noe more.
 on his bed side he sett him downe,
 60 he siked sore, & fell in swoone.
 Sir Grime of Garwicke shortly rose,
 & ran to Sir Egar, and said, "alas,
 for thee, Egar, my hart is woe
 64 *that euer I were soe farr thee free !*
 for when wee parted att yonder yate
 thou was a mightye man, & milde of state ;
 & well thou seemed, soe god me speede,
 68 to proue thy manhood on a steede ;
 & now thou art both pale and greene,¹
 & in strong battell thou hast beene ;
 thou hast beene in strong battell,²
 72 it was neuer litle *that made thee fayle.*"
 "Now as it hath behappned mee,
 god, let it neuer behappen thee
 Nor noe other curteous *Knight* [page 126.]
 76 *that euer goeth to the feild to fight,*
 for to win worshipp as I haue done !
 I haue bought it deare & lost it soone !
 for other *Lords* haue biddn⁴ att home,
 80 & saned their bodyes forth of shame,
 & kepeed⁵ their manhood faire & cleane !
 well broked⁶ my loue before mine eyen,
 & I am hurt & wounded sore,
 84 & manhood is lost for euer-more."
- Grime com-
 forts him
 and sorrows
 for his
 defeat.
- Eger la-
 ments over
- his lost
 worship
- and man-
 hood,

¹ Compare *χλωρός*, pale-green, light-green, greenish-yellow, strictly of the colour of young grass, corn, &c. *χλωπαί βῆνες*, Od. 16, 47, ii., generally pale, *χλωρός δέος*, pale fear. Il. 479, &c. Lid. and Scott.—H.

² battayle.—P.

³ Egar loquitur.—P.

⁴ biden, *i.e.* abode . . . hame.—P.

⁵ kept.—P.

⁶ ? rejected, lost. See Wedgwood under *broker*. Du. *braken*, To Vomit, to cast, or to Spewe. Hexham.—F.

- then said Grime to Sir Egar,
 "ye greene you more then meete were;
 for *that* man was neuer soe well cladd,
 88 nor yett soe doughtye in armes dread,¹
 but in battell place he may be distayned.²
 why shold his manhood be reproued,
 or his Ladye or his loue repine?"
 92 then said Egar, "lett be, Sir Grime!
 for fairer armour then I had,
 was neuer Cristian *Knight* in cladd;
 I had a body *that* seemed well to doe,
 96 & weapons *that* well longed therto;
 well I trusted my Noble steed,
 soe *that* I did my good rich weed;
 & well I trusted my Noble brand;
 100 the best of all I trusted my hart & my hand!
 I heard tell of a venterous *Knight*
that kept a fforbidden countrie bath day & night,
 & a fresh lland by the sea
 104 where castles were with towers hye.
 ouer the riuer were ryding frythes³ 2,
 & soone I chose to the one of tho;
 in short while had I rydden
 108 in *that* Land that was fforbidden,
 but I heard mouing⁴ in the greete⁵
 as itt had beene of a steeds feete.
 My horsse gladedd with *that* cheere,
 112 cast vp his head & was a steere,⁶

and tells
 Grime his
 mishap.

He heard of
 a daring
 knight
 who forbad
 others his
 land;

he rode
 there,

¹ dradde, i.e. dreaded. Chau.—P.

² I quench or put out. *Je destains*.
 The water that boyleth over wyll
 quench the fyre. I stayne a thyng, I
 marre the colour or glosse of it: *Je*
destayns. I distayne, I chaunge the
 coloure of a thyng: *je destains*. . .
 This drinke hath distayned my doublet
 foule. Palsgrave. *Destaindre*, to distaine,
 to dead, or take away the colour of.
 Cotgrave.—F.

³ *ryding places* in l. 937.—H. ? forls.
Frythes, in *Gawains and the Greene*
Knight, are enclosed woods, (see Glos-
 sary). *Firth*, *fyrth*, a sheltered place,
 enclosure. Jamieson.—F.

⁴ moving.—P.

⁵ greet, grete, sand or gravel in Rivers.
 —G[awain] D[ouglas]. Gl.—P.

⁶ steer, is to stir, move briskly. G.D.;
 Chau.—P.

- he groped together as he wold haue runen :
 I hearkned when more din had comen ;
 I looked on the way nye before,
 & see a *Knight* come on a sowre ¹;
 red was his sheild, red was his speare,
 & all of fresh gold shone his geere ;
 & by the death *that* I must thole,²
 my steed seemed to his but a fole ;
 his speare *that* was both great & long,
 faire on his brest he cold itt honge ;
 & I mine in my rest can folde.
 I gaue my horsses what head he wold,
 our steeds brought vs together soone :
 alas, *that* meeting I may mone !
 ffor³ through coate armour & acton,⁴
 through brest plate & Habergion,
 through all my armour lesse & more,
 Cleane through the body he me bore ;
 & I still in my saddle sate,
 my good spere on his brest I brake.
 the 2^d time he came againe,
 he fayled of me, & my steede he has slaine.
 then I gott vpp deliuerlye,⁵
 not halfe soe soone as need had I ;
 I thought to haue wrocken⁶ my steeds bane,
 but *that* great outrage my selfe hath tane ;
 I drew a sword of Mettle bright,
 & egerlye I sought vnto *that Knight* ;
 I stroke at him with all my maine,
 I failed of him, & his steed has⁷ slaine.
 when hee see *that* itt was soe,
 to counter⁸ on ffoote he was full throe⁹ ;

¹ Sore, is sorrel col^d; perhaps it is here a horse of that colour; G.D. Sore also signifies valde, vehementer. *Jun.* if so, perhaps *a* is redundant.—P.

² suffer.—P.

³ MS. ffor.—F.

⁴ i.e. hocqueton.—P.

⁵ nimbly, quickly; vid. Chauc. Gl. —P.

⁶ wroken, wreaked, revenged.—P.

⁷ have, or *is* or *was*.—P.

⁸ encounter.—P.

⁹ bold.—F.

- hee drew a sword, a worthy weapon ;
the first dint *that* on me did happen,
throug all my armour, lesse and more,
148 7 inches into the sholder he me shore ¹ ;
& I hitt him with whole pith ²
aboue the girdle, *that* he groned with,
& with *that* stroke I cold him lett
152 whiles another shortlye on him I sett,
& well I wott I had him gotten,
but with *that* stroke my sword was broken.
then I drew a kniffe,—I had noe other,
156 the *which* I had of my owne borne brother,—
& he another out of sheath hath tane,
& neere hand together are we gone :
first he wounded me in the face ;
160 my eyen were safe, *that* was my grace ;
then I hitt him vpon the head,
that in his helme my blade I leade.³
god ! lett neuer *Knight* soe woe be gon ⁴
164 as I was when all my false weapons were done ⁵ !
yett ⁶ with the haft *that* was left in my hand,
fast vpon his face I dange
that the blood sprang out from vnder the steele :
168 he lost some teeth, *that* wott I weele.
My Habergion *that* was of Millaine⁷ fine,—
first my fathers and then was mine,
& itt had beene in many ⁸ a thrust,
172 & neuer a naile of itt wold burst ;—
my acton was⁹ of Paris worke,
saued me noe more then did my sarke,
for his sword was of Noble steele,

the Red
Knight
cut him
7 inches
into the
sholder ;

his sword
broke,

he got a
wound in
the face,

was cut
through
habergion

and
acqueton

¹ did share, divide.—P.
² *met.* vigour ; so in Chau.—P.
³ perhaps laid.—P. leaved, left.—F.
⁴ overwhelmed with sorrow.—P.
⁵ done.—P.
⁶ First written *y* in the MS. and then
ett added.—F.
⁷ Cp. the "*Millaine knife*," l. 168 of
"King Arthur and the King of Corn-
wall." *Bp. Percy's Folio, Bal. & Rom.* i.
68.—F.
⁸ many.—P. Only one stroke, with a
mark over it, in the MS. for the *m*.—F.
⁹ that was.—P.

- 176 he strake hard—& it lasted weele—
through all my armour more & lesse,
and neuer ceaced¹ but in the fleshe.
into the
flesh.
then, sore² foughten, I waxed wearye,
180 for blood as drye as any tree ;
Eger
swooned.
I fought soe long, I ffell in swoone,³
till betweene his hands I fell downe.
when I came to my-selfe, my steed⁴ was away ;
When he
woke, his
steed was
dead ;
184 I looked on the Land where he lay ;
my steed lay slaine a litle me froe,
& his head backe striken in tow.
then I was ware of a runing strand,⁵
he crept to
a brook
and washed
his eyes ;
188 & thither I crope⁶ on foot & hand,
& from my eyen I washt the blood ;—
all was away shold have done me good ;—
then I looked on my right hand ;
his right
little-finger
was gone.
192 my litle finger was lackand.
then I went further on the greene
where more strong battells hadden beene ;
a slaine Knight & spoyled lay,
So was
another
slain
knight's.
196 his litle finger was away ;
& by *that Knight* I might well see
that one man had delt both with him & me.
then of a saddled horsse I gatt a sight,
Eger caught
a horse,
200 & by him lay a slaine Knight ;
his steede was both good & fine,
but not halfe soe good as mine.
rode to
all *that* day did I ryde
204 till itt was in the euen tide ;
the Moone shone fayre, the starres cast light ;
then of a castles I gott a sight,
a castle
of a Castle & of a towne,
208 & by an arbour side I light downe ;

¹ ceased.—P.² being sore fought.—P.³ Only one stroke of the *n* in the MS.—F.⁴ foe ; *sic legerem*.—P.⁵ Fr. *plage* : f. A flat and plaine shore or *strand* by the seaside. Cot.—F.⁶ crope, i.e. crept.—P.

- & there I saw fast me by
 The fairest bower *that* euer saw I. [page 127.¹] and bower,
 a little while I tarryed there,
 212 and a lady came forth of a fresh Arbor; whence
 shee came forth of *that* garden greene, came a
 & in that bower faine wold haue beene; lovely lady,
 shee was cladd ² in scarlett redd,
 216 & all of fresh gold shone her heade,
 her rud was red as rose in raine,
 a fairer creature was neuer seene.
 me-thought her coming did me good,
 220 & straight upon my feete I stooode.
 "Good Sir," quoth shee, "what causes you here to
 lenge?
 for ye had meetter ³ of great easmend ⁴;
 & heere beside is a castle wight,
 224 & there be leeches ⁵ of great sleight,⁶
 cuning ⁷ men with for to deale,
 & wonderous good happ haue for to heale;
 & there is the gentlest Lady att will who asked
 228 *that* euer man came in misery till; him to
 therfore I counsell you thither to wend, be cured
 for yee had neede of great easmend." by the
 "Lady," said Egar, "as itt be-happened mee, gentlest
 232 I irke to come in any companye. lady living.
 I beseeche you, Lady faire and sweete,
 helpe *that* I were sounded ⁸ with one sleepe,
 & some Easment for me and my hackney."
 236 "Sir," sayd shee, "I will doe the best I may.
 Sir, sith I am first *that* with you mett,
 I wold your neede were the better bett.⁹" Eger went:
 then a faire maid, shee tooke my steede, his steed was
 stabled,

¹ This is the second page 127, the MS.
 being wrongly numbered.—F.

² MS. has a tag like an *s* to the *d*.—F.

³ were meeter, qu.—P.

⁴ easemend, easement.—P.

⁵ physicians.—P.

⁶ skill.—P.

⁷ cunning.—P.

⁸ made sound, eased.—F.

⁹ remedied. A.-S. *bétan*, to repair,
 restore, remedy.—F.

- 240 & into a stable shee did him leade,
 & into a chamber both faire & light
 I was led betweene 2 Ladyes bright.
 his bloody
 armour
 taken off,
 and drink
 given him. 244 all my bloodye armour of me was done,
 the Lady searched my wounds full soone,
 shee gaue me drinke for to restore,
 for neere hand was I bled ¹ before;
 there was neuer alle nor wine
 248 came to mee in soe good a time;
 a siluer bason she cammanded soone,
 & warme water therin to be done;
 the Ladye Lone-some vnde[r] line,²
 The lovely
 lady washed
 his hands, 252 with her white hands shee did wash mine,
 & when shee saw my right hand bare,
 alas! my shame is much the more ³!
 saw his
 finger was
 lost, 256 the gloue was whole, the hand was nomen,⁴
 therby shee might well see I was ouercomen;
 & shee perceined *that* I thought shame;
 therefore shee would not aske me my name,
 nor att *that* word shee sayd noe more,
 260 but all good easments I had there.⁵
 put him to
 bed, then till a bed I was brought;
 I sleept neuer halfe soe soft;
 the Ladye fayre of Hew & hyde,
 264 shee sate downe by the bedside;
 shee a laid a souter ⁶ vpon her knee,
 and played
 to him, thereon she plaid full lonesomlye,
 & yett for all her sweet playinge,
 while her
 maidens
 sang 268 oftymes shee had full still mourninge;
 & her 2 maydens sweetlye sange,

¹ bled, bled dry, exhausted from loss of blood.—F.

² linen.—F. 'under gore (petticoat) or line' was for the woman; 'under shield' for the man:

There was none that undir schilde
 Durste mete his crokede stede.

Sir Isambard, l. 617.

Fowre knyghtis undir schelde
 Come rydand fulle righte.

Sir Perceval, l. 1387.

³ mair.—P.

⁴ nomen, took away.—P.

⁵ thore.—P.

⁶ souter, i.e. Psalter, Psaltory.—P.

- & oft thé weeped, & their hands wrange ;
 but I heard neuer soe sweet playinge,
 272 & euer amongst, soe sore siking. and she
sighed.
 in the night shee came to me oft,
 & asked me whether I wold ought ;
 but alwayes I said her Nay
 276 till it drew neerr to the breake of day ;
 then all my bloodye tents out shee drew,
 againe shee tented ¹ my wounds anew : Next day
she dressed
Eger's
wounds
 wott yee well itt was noe threede,² [page 128.]
 280 the tents *that* into my wounds yeede,
 they were neither of lake nor Line,³
 but they were silke both good & fine ;
 twice the tenting of my wounds with silken
plugs,
 284 cost *that* Ladye 20 pounds,
 without spices and salues *that* did me ease,
 & drinke *that* did my body well please ;
 & then shee gaue me drinke in a horne ;
 288 neuer since the time *that* I was borne
 such a draught I neuer gatt ;
 with her hand shee held me after thatt.
 the drinke shee gaue mee was grasse greene ;
 292 soone in my wounds itt was seene ;
 the blood was away, the drinke was there,⁴
 & all was soft *that* erst was sore⁴ ;
 & methought I was able to run and stand,
 296 & to haue taken a new battell in hand ;
 the birds sange in the greene Arbor,
 I gate on foote and was on steere.
 the Ladye came to me where I lay, and healed
them up
with a
grasse-green
drink,
which made
him feel
ready to
fight again.

¹ I tent a sore or a wounde, I put a tente in it. *Je mets une tente*. You shall never heale this depe wounde if you tent it not. Palsgrave.—F.

² thread.—P.

³ A.-S. *lach*, garment; *lin*, flax. Halliwell gives "Lake. A kind of fine linen. Shirts were formerly made of it. It is

mentioned in a laundress's list of articles in MS. Cantab. Ff. i. 6, f. 141, and by Chaucer. The following passage establishes its colour:—

The daisé y-crowned as white as lake,
 An violetis on bankes be [?] bedene.

MS. Cantab. Ff. i. 6, f. 11.—F.

⁴ thore or sair.—P.

- She advised 300 these were the words shee to me did say,
him to stay, "I rede you tarry a day or towe
till you bee in better plight to goe;"
- but as he 304 but I longed soe sore to be at home
longed to go,
she let him, *that* I wold needlye¹ take leaue to gone.
shee gaue me 2 shirts of raines² in fere,
put them next my body; I haue them here;
& my owne shee did abone,³
- 308 & my bloudye armour on me hath done,
saue my heauy habergion; shee was afrayd
lest they⁴ wold haue mad my wounds to bleede;
that Ladye with her milke white hand,⁵
- tying his 312 to the rason⁶ of my saddell shee it bound⁷
armour and
her wine to
the back of
his saddle. with 2 bottels of rich wine,
& therof haue I lined euer sinne.⁸
- Eger 316 I sayd, "a! deare⁹ good Madam, how may this
wondered
that he felt
so well. be?
- the coningest leeches in this land be yee;
for all my wounds lesse or more,
of them I feele noe kind of sore
as I had neuer beene wounded with sword nor
speare,
- 320 nor neuer weapon had done mee deere.¹⁰"
- She warned 324 "wold god," said shee, "*that* itt were soe!
him that he
was only
cured for a
day or two. but I know well for a day or 2
froe *that* loue make you once agast,
your oyntments may noe longer last.
sith you will not abyde with mee,
lett your Ladye in your countrye
doe to your wounds as I wold haue done;
328 then they will soft and heale full soone."
one thing did my hart great greeffe,

¹ *i.e.* needs.—P.² Fine cloth made at Rennes, in Brit-

tany.—F.

³ *i.e.* above. G.D.—P.⁴ *it. qu.*—P.⁵ *honde.*—P.⁶ perhaps *arson*, *id.* as *arçon*, Fr.
saddle-bow.—P.⁷ *bonde.*—P.⁸ *syne*, since.—P.⁹ *ah! dear!*—P.¹⁰ *dere, lædere, nocere*, Lye.—P.

- I had nothing *that* Ladye to giue ;
 but my golden beades forth I drew,
 332 *that* were of fine gold fresh and new.
 shee wold not receiue them at my hand,
 but on her bedside I lett them liggand ¹ ;
 I tooke leaue of *that* Ladye bright,
 336 & homewards rid both day & Night.
 I fared full well all *that* while
 till I came home within 2 mile ;
 then all my wounds wrought att once
 340 as kniues had beene beaten thorow my bones ;
 out of my sadle I fell *that* fraye ;
 when I came to my selfe, my steed was away.
 thus haue I beene in this fiarr countrie,
 344 such a venterous *Knight* mett with mee,
 Men called him Sir Gray Steele ;
 I assayed him, & he ffended weele.

Eger gave
the lady his
gold beads,

rode home,

and fainted
when two
miles off.

His defeater
was Sir
Gray-Steele.

[The Second Part.]

- Then spake Grime to Sir Egar
 348 with soft words & faire,
 2^d Parte "*that* man was neuer soe wise nor worthy,
 nor yet soe cuning proued in clergie,²
 nor soe doughtye of hart nor hand,
 352 nor yett so bigg in stowre³ to stand,
 but in such companye he may put in
 but he is as like to loose as win ;
 & euer I bade you to keepe you weele
 356 out of the companye of Sir Gray Steele,
 for he is called by command
 the best *Knight* in any Land.
 sith the Matter is chanced soe,
 360 wee will take the wayes of choice 2 :

[page 129.]

Grime
comforts
Eger ;

he had
warned him
to keep out
of Sir Gray-
Steele's way.

¹ left y^m liggand, i.e. lying.—P.

² Fr. *clergie*, learning, skill, science, Clarkeship. Cotgrave.—F.

³ battle.—P.

Winglayne
must know
nothing
about it.

- from *your* loue and laydye Iained¹ this shalbee;
shee shall know nothing of our priuitye."
but litle wist Egar nor Sir Grime
364 where the lady was *that* same time;
for the Lady *that* Egars loue was,
her chamber was within a little space;
of Sir Egar shee soe sore thought
368 *that* shee lay wakened, and slept nought.
a scarlett Mantle hath shee tane,
to Grimes chamber is shee gone;
shee heard them att a priuie dain²;
372 shee stayd with-out, & came not in.
when shee heard *that* Egars body was in distresse,
shee loued his body mickle the worse.³
words this lady wold not say,
376 but turned her backe & went awaye,
yet soe priuilye shee is not gone
but Grime perceived *that* there was one;
an vnfolded window opened hee,
380 & saw the way-gate of *that* Ladye.
"what is *that*?" said Egar, "maketh *that* dinn?"
Grime sayd, "my spanyell hound wold come in."
to his fellow Sir Egar he said noe more,
384 but he repented *that* she came there.⁴
Gryme hath gotten *that* same night
Leeches *that* beene of great sleight,
coning men with for to deale,
388 *that* had good happ wounds to heale.
yett Long ere day word is gone
that Egar the Knight is comen home,
& hath moe wounds with sword & kniffe⁵
392 then had euer man *that* bare liffe:
17 wounds hee hath tane,

But she has
overheard
all of it,

and deeplaces
Eger.

Grime gets
doctors for
Eger,

who has
seventeen

¹ lained, *i.e.* concealed.—P.
² One stroke of the *u* of *priuie* is
wanting. *Dain* may be *dinn*. ? A.-S.
denn, bed, place of rest.—F.

³ worse.—P.

⁴ thore.—P.

⁵ knife.—P.

- 7 beene thorow his body ran ;
the Leeches cold doe him noe remede,
396 but all said " Egar wold be dead."
In the morning the Erle & the countesse,
to Grymes chamber can thé passe ;
the Erle said, " how doth Sir Egar the *Knight* ? "
400 then answered Grime both wise and wight :
" he doth, my *Lord*, as you may see."
" alas ! " said the Erle, " how may this bee ? "
Grime answered him hastilye,
404 " my *Lord*, I shall tell you gentleye :
& ¹ vncoth ² Land he happened in,
where townes where both few & thinn ;
giffe he rode neuer soe fast,
408 7 dayes the wilderness did last.
he heard tell of a venterous *Knight*
that kept a forbbidden countrie day & night,
& a mile by the salt sea,
412 castles fayre & towers hye ;
On the other ³ side a fayre strand, [page 130.]
a faire fforrest on the other hand,
on the one side run a fresh riwere,
416 there might noe man nighe him nere ;
for he *that ouer that riuer* shold ryde,
strange adventures shold abyde ;
hee shold either fight or flee,
420 or a weed ⁴ in that Land leaue shold hee ;
the wedd *that* he shold leaue in this land
shold be the litle ffigar of his right hand ;
& or he knew himselfe to slowe,
424 his litle ffigar he wold not forgoe.
boldlye Egar gaue him battell tho ;
his helme and his hawberckes he tooke him fro,
soe did he his sword & his spere

wounds,
seven
through the
body.

Earl and
Lady Bregas
ask after
Eger,

and how his
mishap
befell.
Grime
makes up a
story,

that Eger
rode into
Gray-
Steele's land,

defeated
Gray-Steele,

¹ for an.—F.

² unknown, strange, Gl. Chau.—P.

³ one side, *sic leg.*—P.

⁴ wedde, i.e. a pledge.—P.

- and was
riding home,
- 428 & much more of his golden gayre¹;
& homewards as he rode apace
thorow the wylde forrest & the wyldenesse,
he thought to haue scaped withouten Lett.
- when fifteen
thieves
attacked and
wounded
him,
- 432 then 15 theeves with Egar Mett;
they thought Egar for to have him sloe,
his gold and his good to haue tooke him froe:
thrise through them with a spere he ran,
- though he
slew eight of
them.
- 436 7 he slew, and the *master man*,
yett had hee scaped for all *that* dread;
they shott att him, & slew his steed;
hee found a steed when they were gone,
- 440 wheron Sir Egar is come home;
for if Sir Egar dye this day,
farwell flower of *Knight-hoode* for euer & aye!"
then the Erle proffered 40^{li} in Land
- 444 for a Leech *that* wold take Egar in hand.
9 dayes were comen & gone
or any Leech wold² Egar vndertane;
it was 9 dayes and some deale more
- Winglayne
will not
come for
nine days;
- 448 or his ladye wold come there³;
& att the coming of *that* fayre Ladye,
her words they were both strange & drye:
shee saies, "how doth *that* wounded *Knight*?"
- then asks
coldly after
Eger,
- 452 then answered Gryme both wise & wight,
"he doth, Madam, as yee may see."
"in faith," said the Lady, "*that's* litle pittye:
he might full well haue bidden⁴ att home;
worshipp in *that* Land gatt he none;
he gaue a ffigar to lett him gange,
the next time he will offer vp the whole hand."
Gryme was euer wont to gange
- and sneers
at his
having lost
his finger.
- 456 in counsell with the ladye to stand,
460 & euer told Egar a fayre tale

¹ geere.—P.² had.—P.³ thore.—P.⁴ i.e. bided, abode.—P.

- till the *Knight* Sir Egar was whole ;
 for & her want & will¹ had beene to him lenging,
 464 it wold have letted him of² his mending.
 soe long the Leeches delt with Sir Egar
 till he might stontlye goe & stirr ;
 till itt once beffell vppon a day
 468 Gryme thought the Ladye to assaye
 whether shee loued Sir Egar his brother
 as well as euer shee did before :
 Grime said, " Madame, by godds might,
 472 Egar will take a new battell with yonder *Knight* ;
 he is to sore wounded yett for to gone ;
 itt were worshipp to cause him to abyde at home,
 for he will doe more for you then mee."
 476 then answered *that* fayre Lady,
 " all *that*³ while *that* Egar was⁴ the *Knight*
that wan the degree in euery fight,
 for his sake verelye
 480 Manye a better I haue put by ;
 therfor I will not bidd him ryde,
 nor att home I will not bid him abyde,
 Nor of⁵ his Marriage I haue Nothing adoe⁶ ; [page 131.]
 484 I wott not, Gryme, what thou saist therto."
 Gryme turned his backe of the Ladye faire,
 & went againe to his brother Sir Egar,
 sett him downe on his bed side,
 488 & talked these words in *that* tyde :
 " Egar," he said, " thou & I are brethren sworne,
 I loued neuer better brother borne ;
 betwixt vs tow let vs make some cast,
 492 & find to make our formen⁷ fast,
 for of our enemies wee stand in dread,
 & wee Lye sleeping in our bedd."

Egar gets
able to walk.

Grime tests
Winglayne's
love for
Egar :

she says,
while he
won every-
thing

she refused
his betters
for him ;

but now
she'll have
nothing
to do with
him.

Grime turns
his back on
her,

and asks
Egar how
they can be
revenged on
their foes.

¹ "wanton will," qu: from this mistake I should suspect this Poem transcribed only from y^e mouth of a minstrel.—P. But *g* for *y*, and *want* meaning "desire," make sense.—F.

² In the MS. there is something like an *e* following the *f*.—F. ³ the.—P.

⁴ MS. Egar y^t was.—F. y^t Egar was.—P.

⁵ with ⁶ to do: qu.—P. ⁷ foemen.—P.

- Egar said, "what mistrust haue yee with mee?
 496 for this 7 monthes if I here bee,
 shall neuer a man take my matter¹ in hand
 till I bee able to auenge my-selfe in Land."
 a kinder *Knight* then Gryme was one,
 Grime tells him that 500 was neuer bredd of blood nor bone :
 "methinke you be displeased with mee,
 & *that* is not *your part* for to bee,
 for sith the last time *that* ye came home,
 Winglayne is flirting with Earl Olyes. 504 I haue knowen priuie² messengers come & gone
 betwixt your Ladye & Erle Olyes,
 a Noble *Knight that* doughtye is,
 of better blood borne then euer were wee,
 508 & halfe more linings then such other 3."
 then Egar vp his armes sprang,
 & ffast together his hands dange,
 with still mourning & siking sore³
 Poor Eger 512 saith, "alas ! my lone & my Ladye fayre,
 mourns and sighs. what haue I done to make you rothe⁴
that was euer leene, & now soe Lothe ? "
 Gryme had of him great pittye,
 Grime declares 516 "brother," he said, "be councelled by mee ;
 if you will doe after my counsaile,
 peradventure it will greatly preuaile :
 another thing, my liffe I dare Lay
 he shall marry her in a month. 520 *that* yee shall wed *that* Ladye within this monthes day."
 "how now ? " quoth Egar, "how may *that* bee ? "
 "peace ! " said Gryme, " & I shall tell thee :
 I haue a brother *that* men call Palyas,
 They will take Grime's brother Pallyas into council. 524 a noble squier & worthye is,
 he is welbeloued within this court
 of all the Lords round about ;

¹ ? MS. *my hatter* was first written, then seemingly an *m* over the *h*, but only two strokes of it are seen. It can hardly be read *my hatter*, for though Old Norse *hattir* is German *hut* (hat), yet *hattir* has

not *hut's* second metaphorical meaning of "custody, guardianship, care, charge."—F.

² Only half the *u* in MS.—F.

³ sair.—P. ⁴ wrothe.—P.

- wee will him call to our counsell,¹
 528 peradventur he will vs prevayle;
 & I my selfe will make me sicke at home
 till a certen space be comen & gone,
 & *that* such a disease hath taken mee
 532 *that* I may noe man heare nor noe man see.
 Palyas my brother shall keepe you att home,
 & I my selfe will to *that* battell gone,
 & I shall feitch Gray-steeles right hand,
 536 or I shall leaue another fingar in *that* Land.”
- He shall
nuree Eger
- while Grime
fights Gray-
Steele.

[The Third Part.]

- They called Pallyas to their counsell,¹
 & he assented soone withouten fayle,
 3: Parte for he loued Sir Egar both Euen & morne
 540 as well as he did Gryme his brother borne.
 “ & iff you will to this battell goe,
 yee had neede of good counsell betwene vs 2.
 Gryme, if thou wilt fight with Sir Gray-steele,
 544 thou had neede of weapons *that* stand wold weelee;
 for weapons may be both fresh & new,
 fikle, false, & full vntrue;
 when a weapon faileth when a man hath need,
 548 all the worse then may hee speede;
 And all I say by Sir Egar, [page 132.] Eger had.
 where was a better *Knight* knowen any where?
 when his weapon faild him att most need,
 552 all the worse then did he speede.”
 Palyas said, “there was somtimes in this countrye,
 Egar, your vnckle Sir Egranye,
 & when *that* Egramye was liuand
 556 he had the guiding of a noble brand,
- So said, so
done.
- Pallyas
agrees,
- but says
that Grime
must have
a better
sword than
- He will get
him Eger's
uncle's
brand,

¹ counsayle.—P.

<i>Erkyin,</i>		the name of itt was called Erkyin ¹ ; well were <i>that</i> man had it in keeping ! first when <i>that</i> sword was rought,
brought to King Ffundus from beyond the Greekish Sea, and left by him	560	to King ffundus it was brought full far beyond the greekes sea, for a Iewell of high degree. when the King departed ² this world hence,
	564	he left it with the younge prince ³ ; & some sayd <i>that</i> Egramye shold loue <i>that</i> ladye in priuitye ; he desired the sword in borrowing ;
at his death	568	the King deceased at that time ; & when <i>that</i> Egrame was liuande, he had the guiding of <i>that</i> noble brand ; <i>that</i> man was neuer of a woman borne,
with a lady living near.	572	durst abyde the winde his face beforne. the Ladyes dwelling is heere nye ; shee saith, ' there is noe man <i>that</i> sword shall see till her owne sonne be att age & land,
	576	& able to welde his fathers brande.'" Grime sayd, " I will goe thither to-morrow at day to borrow <i>that</i> sword if <i>that</i> I may."
Grime will borrow it.		on the morrow when the sun shone bright, to Egrames Ladie went Grime the Knight ; kindley he halcht ⁴ <i>that</i> ladye faire :
Grime goes to the lady,		she saith, " how doth my Cozin Sir Egar ? " " hee will forth, maddam, with all his might
	584	to take a new battell on yonder Knight ; he prayeth you to lend him his vnckeles brand, & there he hath sent you the deeds of his land,
and asks for his uncle's brand.		& all mine I will leane with you in pawne 588 <i>that</i> your sword shall safelye come againe." soe he desired <i>that</i> sword soe bright

¹ Erkyin : below 'tis called *Egeking*,
which perhaps is right.—P.

² *he* departed.—P.

³ *i. e.* princess.—F.

⁴ saluted.—P.

- that shee was loth to with-say ¹ that *Knight* ;
 then shee feitchéd him forth *that Noble brand*,
 592 & receiued the deeds of both their lands ;
 she said, "there was noe fault with Egeking,
 but for want of grace and gouerninge ;
 for want of grace & good gouerninge
 596 may loose a Kingdome & a *King*,
 for there is neither *Lán* ² nor light
that Egeking my sword meeteth with,
 but gladlye it will through itt gone,
 600 *that biting sword, vnto the bone ;*
 but I wold not for both *your Lands*
that Egeking came in a cowards hands."
 & yett was faine ³ *Sir Gryme the Knight* :
 604 to *Egar* he went againe *that night* ;
Pallyas he said, "I read you be councelled by mee,
 & take some gifts to that faire *Ladye*,
 to *that Ladye faire & bright*
 608 *that Lodged Sir Egar soe well the first night."*
 "the best tokens," said *Sir Egar*,
 "beene her sarkes of raines ⁴ ; I haue them here."
 he tooke broches & beads in *that stonde*,
 612 & other Iewells worth 40⁵
 & to reward *that fayre Ladye*,
 & thanke her of her curtesie.
 "wherby," sayd *Gryme*, "shall I her know
 616 amongst other *Ladyes that stands on a row ?*"
 "I shall tell you tokens," sayd *Sir Egar*,
 "Wherby you may know *that Ladye faire* : [page 133.]
 shee hath on her nose, betweene he[r] eyen,
 620 like to the Mountenance ⁶ of a pin ;
 & *that [hew]* is red, & the other is white,

She gives it
 him, he
 depositing
 his own and
 Eger's title-
 deeds as
 security for
 its return.

Grime
 comes back.

Pallyas tells
 him to take
 gifts for the
 lady that
 healed Eger.

Eger de-
 scribes her
 to Grime.

¹ A.-S. *wiðsagan*, to deny, gainsay.—

F. ² *Limme & lith* is to this day a phrase
 in Scotland for the whole body.—P.

³ And then was faine, i.e. glad.—P.

⁴ See l. 305 above, p. 28.—F.

⁵ amount, quantity, see *Chanc.* Gl.
 —P. [Her eyebrows meet.—F.] ^{so}
 Horace, of *Lycoris* "*tenui fronte*."—H.

- there is noe other Ladye her like,
for shee is the gentlest of hart & will
624 *that euer man came vntill."*
- Eger and
Grime dress.
628 Early on the other day
theese 2 knights did them array :
into a window Sir Egar yeede,
Eger shows
himself
(reading
romances),
628 bookes of Romans for to reede
that all the court might him heare.
the *Knight* was armed & on steere ;
he came downe into the hall,
and takes
leave of all.
632 & tooke his leane both of great & small.
the Erle tooke Egars hand in his fist,
the countesse comlye cold him Kisse ;
his oune lady stood there by,
636 shee wold bere the *Knight* noe companye :
he sayd, "ffarwell my Lady faire !"
Winglayne
answers
him coolly.
shee sayd, "god keepe you better then he did ere!"
& all *that* euer stooode her by,
640 did ¹ Marueill her answer was soe dry.
he went to the chamber or he wold blin ² ;
Sir Gryme came forth as he went in,
Stepped into the stirropp ³ *that* stiffe were in warr,
644 & Palyas his brother wrought ⁴ him a spere.
then wold he noe longer abyde,
and rides off.
but towards Gray-steele can he ryde.
Winglayne
watches him
galloping ;
thinks he is
Eger ;
648 to the walls went winglaine, *that* Lady faire,
for to see the waygate of her loue Sir Egar ;
& Gryme the spurres spared not ; soe weele
to the steeds sides he let them feele,
his horsse bouted ⁵ forth with Noble cheere,
652 he spowted ⁶ forward as he had beene a deere
till he was passed out of her sight.
then goes to
Grime's
room,
to Grymes chamber went *that* Ladye bright :

¹ The first *d* is made over a *w* in the line.—F.
MS.—F.

² desist, cease.—P.

³ Percy has put in an *s* above the

⁴ *raught*, i.e. reached.—P.

⁵ *bouted*, Scot. for bolted.—P.

⁶ a Scottish idiom.—P.

- yett long time or shee came there
 656 Palyas had warned Sir Egar,
 drawen double curtaines in *that* place
that noe man of Sir Egar noe knowledg hath.¹
 Palyas was full of curtesie,
 660 & sett a chaire for *that* faire Ladye :
 shee said, " at the walls, Palyas, I haue beene there
 to see the ryding forth of Sir Egar ;
 he rydeth feircely out of the towne
 664 as he were a wild Lyon.
 alas ! hee may make great boast & shoure²
 when there is noe man him before ;
 but when there is man to man, & steed to steede,
 668 to proue his manhood, then were it neede ! "
 oftentimes Egar both cruell & keene
 for her in strong battells oft hath beene,
 & oftentimes had put himselfe in warr ;
 672 & lay & heard her lowte³ him like a knaue :
 he wist not how he might him wrecke,⁴
 but cast vp his armes, & thought to speake.
 & Palyas was perceiued of that,
 676 & by the sholders he him gatt ;
 he held him downe both sad & sore,
that he lay still & sturrd noe more.
 Palyas was full of curtesie,
 680 & thus answered *that* faire ladye ;
 he said, " Maddame, by gods might,
 Egar is knowne for the Noblest Knight
 That euer was borne in the land of Beame, [page 134.]
 684 & most worshipp hath woon to *that* Relme !
that was well proued in heathenesse⁵
 when the King of Beame did thither passe ;
 soe did the Lords of this countrye,
 688 & alsoe your father, *that* Erle soe free.

and says
 Eger can
 show off
 well enough
 when there's
 no one to
 fight him.

Eger can
 hardly help
 speaking,

bnt Pallyas
 holds him
 down,

tells Wing-
 layne that
 Eger is the
 noblest
 knight of
 Beame,

¹ has.—P.

² stour. qu.—P.

³ perhaps flowte.—P.

⁴ revenge.—P.

⁵ sc. the Heathen Land.—P.

- that he
fought the
Sowdan
Gornordine
- 692
- (whose
challenge
500 knights
refused),
- 696
- and slew
him.
Sixty
heathens
attacked
Eger,
- 700
- 704
- but he, Kay,
- 708
- and ten
others killed
the sixty.
- 712
- The king
offered Eger
his daugh-
ter, but he
refused her
for Wing-
layne's sake,
who is now
his foe.
- 716
- there came a sowdan to a hill,¹
that many christen men had done ill,
the name of him was Gornordine,²
that many a christen man had put to pine ;
& he becalled any cristen *Knight*,
or any 5 *that* with him wold fight.
500 *Knights* were there *that* day,
& all to *that* battell they saydden nay.
Egar thought on you att home,
& stale to *that* battell all alone ;
they fought together, as I heard tell,
on a mountaine top till Gornordine fell.
60 Hethen ³ were in a busment ⁴ neere,
& all brake out vpon Sir Egar :
or any reshcew came to him then,
he had kild Gornordine & other ten.
then was he rescewed by a Noble *Knight*
that euer was proued both hardye & wight,
the name of him was Kay of Kaynes,⁵
a Northeren *Knight* I trow he is ;
there were but Egar & other ten,
& thé killed 60 or more of the heathen men ;
thus they rescchewd the Noble Egar,
& brought him to the host, as you shall hear.
the *King* of Beame in *that* stage
offered Sir Egar his daughter in Marryage ;
yet *that* gentle *Knight* wold not doe soe,
he loued you best [*that*] now ⁶ be his foe.
you be his foe, he knowes *that* now
when he standeth in dread, I know."
the Lady was soe wrath with Palyas,

¹ a Sowdan them until, i.e. a Sultan came unto them.—P.

² Gornordine or Gornordine.—P.

³ Hethen, first written *Lethen*, in MS. and then corrected.—F.

⁴ ambushment, i.e. ambuscade.—P.

⁵ perhaps Cathness, orig. *Kapnes*.—P.

⁶ who now.—P. Though *who* in the nominative was in use at the date of the ballad, *that* was the more general relative. See Mr. Weymouth's paper on *who*, Phil. Soc. Trans. 1860-1, p. 64, and Mr. Furnivall's answer to it, Phil. Soc. Trans. 1865, p. 139.—F.

- 720 shee tooke her leaue & forth shee goth.¹
 Now lett vs leaue chydying att home,
 & speake of Sir Gryme *that* is to the battell gone. Now of Sir
Grime.

[The Fourth Part.]

- All the wildernesses *that* there bee, Sir Grime
rode into
 724 Grime rode it in dayes 3 ;
 he mett a squier by the way ;
 4^d Parte with fayre words Grime can to him say,
 " Sir," he said, " who is Lord of this countrye ? "
 728 the squier answered him gentlye,
 " It is a lord most worthyest in waine,² Earl Gares'
land,
 Erle Gares is his name."
 Grime sayd, " how highteth *that* lords heyre ³ ? "
 732 he sayd, " he hath none but a daughter fayre."
 Gryme saith, " who hath *that* Ladye wedd ? "
 the Knight sayd, " shee neuer came in mans bedd ;
 but Sir Attelston, a hardye Knight, a lord
whose
daughter
was wedded
to Sir
Attelston.
 736 marryed *that* Lady fayre & bright ;
 for he gaue battell, *that* wott I weelee,
 vpon a day to Sir Gray-Steele : Gray-Steele
killed Attel-
ston,
 740 a harder battell then there was done tho,
 but Gray-steele killed Sir Attelstone,
 a bolder Knight was neuer none.
 Erle Gares sonne & his heyre,—
 744 in all the world was none more goodlyere,—
 he was soe sorry Attelstone was dead,
 he thought to quitt gray-steele his meede ;
 boldlye he gaue him battell vpon a day,
 748 ther-for many a man sayd well-away ! also Earl
Gares' son
and heir,
 & there thé both ended att this bane
 as many another Knight hath done ;

¹ gues.—P. *vane*, consuetudo, mos. (Jamieson).—F.
² ? *wone*, dwelling, or Sc. *wane*, man- ³ Written above *ladye fayre* crossed
 ner, fashion, Suio-Gothic *wana*, Isl. out.—F.

- and more
than 100
knights. 752 ffor I haue wist¹ *that* tyrant with his hands 2 [page 135.]
kill a 100 *Knights* and some deale moe ;
shamfule hath driuen them to dead
withouten succour or any remed.”
for all the words he spake in *that* time,
756 nothing it feared the *Knight* Sir Grime.
Grime asks
where the
widowed
lady dwells,
Gryme sayd, “how farr haue wee to *that* citye
whereas *that* Ladyes dwelling doth bee ? ”
the *Knight*² said “but miles 2 ;
760 the one of them I will with you goe.”
they talked together gentlie
till he had brought Grime to *that* citye.
att a burgesse house his ine he hath tane ;
goes there, 764 to Seeke the Ladye Sir Grime is gone ;
then he went into a garden greene
where he saw many Ladyes sheene ;
recognises
her by
Eger's
description, 768 amongst them all he knew her there
by the tokens of Sir Eger.
Egar was hurt vnder the care ;
an oyntment Gryme had drawen there ;
he held the gloue still on his hand
772 where Egers fingars was lackand ;
& when *that knight* came her nye,
he kneeled downe vpon his knee,
& thanked her with humble cheere
776 “sith the last time, madam, *that* I was heere.”
“Sir,” said shee, “excused you must hold mee ;
thus avised, I did you neuer see.”
and gives her
Eger's pre-
sents. 780 then hee gaue her the shirts of raines in *that* stond
and other Iewells worth 40^l,
& thus rewarded *that* fayre Ladye,
& thanked her of her curtesie.
“Now Sir,” sayd shee, “soe haue I blisse :
784 how fareth the *Knight that* sent me this ? ”
“I doe, Madam, as yee see now,³

¹ known.—P.² Squire.—P.³ ? MS. *may be* how.—F.

- therof I thanke great god and you.”
 “why Sir,” said shee, “but is it yee
 788 *that* in such great perill here did bee?
 I am glad to see you so sound in sight.”
 hastilye shee rose & kist *that Knight*.
 Gryme Looke vpon *that Ladye* ¹ faire:
 792 soe faire a creature saw I ² neuer ere;
 for shee was cladd in scarlett redd,
 & all of fresh gold shone her head;
 her rud was red as rose in raine,
 796 a fairer creature was neuer seene.
 as many men in a matter full nice,—
 but all men in louing shall neuer be wise,—
 his mind on her was soe sett
 800 *that* all other matters he qu[i]te forgett;
 & as *thé* stood thus talkeand,
 shee stale the gloue besids his hand.
 when shee saw his right hand bare,
 804 softly shee said to him there,
 “Sir,” said shee, “it was noe marueill though³ you
 hidd *your* hond!
 for such Leeches in this Land are none!
 there is noe Leech in all this land
 808 can sett a fingar to a hand,
 to be as well & as faire
 as neuer weapon had done it deere⁴!
 bnt game and bourd⁵ Let goe together;
 812 scorning I can well conssider!
 it was neuer *that Knights* commandement
 noe scorne hither to mee to send!
 If thou be comen to scorne mee, [page 136.]
 816 ffull soone I can scorne thee.”
 before, shee was mild of state,

She kisses
him, think-
ing he is
Eger.

Grime falls
in love with
her.

She finds
him out by
his having
a little
finger,

gets angry,

¹ There is a tag to the *e* as if for *s*.—
 F.
² hee.—P.

³ *tho*, then.—P.
⁴ hurt.—P.
⁵ jest.—P.

- and throws
his presents
down. 820 Now is shee high and full of hate !
& of all the Iewells *that* he hath brought,
shee curset¹ them to the ground, & wold them
naught.²
- Grime is
sorry, and
explains 824 Grime was neuer soe sore³ in all his day ;
he wist neuer a word what he shold say ;
& as shee was to the chamber passand,
828 Grime tooke that Ladye by the hand,
saith, " I beseech you, lady free,
a word or 2 to hearken mee,
&—soe helpe me god & holy dame !—
832 I shall tell you how all this matter was done⁴ :
the *knight that* was heere, he was my brother,
& hee thought me more abler then any other
for to take *that* matter in hand ;
836 he loueth a ladye within his land ;
if not in euery fight he win *the* gree,⁵
of his loue forsaken must he bee."
shee sayd, " yee seeme a gentle *Knight*,
840 *that* answereth a ladye with soe much right."
the Iewells the mayden hath vpp tane,
& shee & the *Knight* to chamber are gone.
shee sent vnto *that* burgesse place
844 a mayden *that* was faire of face ;
what cost⁶ soeuer his steede did take,
twice double shee wold it make.
a rich supper there was dight,
and offers
him supper,
but he can't
eat for love. 844 & shortlye sett before *that Knight*.
Meate nor drinke none wold hee,
he was soe enamored of *that* fayre Ladye.
he longed sore to [bee⁷] a bedd,
848 & to a chamber shee him Led,
& all his armour of was done,
- She shows
him to bed,

¹ cost.—P. ? MS. cast.—F.² nought.—P.³ sorry, qu.—P.⁴ came, *sic leg*.—P.⁵ victory.—P.⁶ cost.—P.⁷ bee.—P.

& in his bed he was layd soone.
 the Ladye lonesome of hew & hyde¹
 852 sett her downe by his bedside,
 shee layd a sowter vpon her knee,
 & theron shee playd full lone-somlye,
 & her 2 mayds full sweetlye sang,
 856 & euer they wept, & range² their hands.
 then Spake Gryme to *that* Ladye fayre :
 " of one thing, Madam, I have great Marneile,³
 for I heard neuer soe sweet playinge,
 860 & ofentetimes soe sore weepinge."
 shee commanded her sowter to be taken her froe,
 & sore shee wrange her hands 2 :
 " Sir," shee sayd, " I must neuer be weelee
 864 till I be auenged on Sir Gray-steele,
 for he slew my brother, my fathers heyre,
 & alsoe my owne Lord both fresh & fayre ;
 for Sir Attelstone shold me haue wedd,
 868 but I came neuer in his bedd ;
 he gaue a battell, *that* wott I weelee,
 vpon a day to Sir Gray-steele.
 a harder battell then was done thoe,
 872 was neuer betweene *Knights* 2 ;
 Gray-Steele killed Attelstone ;
 therfor many a *Knight* made great moane.
 then my brother *that* was my fathers heyre—
 876 in all the world was none more goodlyer—
 he was soe sorry for my husband indeed,
 he thought to have quitt Gray-steele his Meede :
 boldlye he gaue him battell vpon a day ;
 880 therfore many a man sayd wellaway !
 And there they both ended att *that* bone [page 137.]
 as many another *Knight* hath done ;
 for I haue wist *that* tyrant with his hands 2

and plays on
a psalterie to
him, while
her maids
lament.

She tells him
she can
never be
happy till
she is
avenged on
Gray-Steele,

who slew
her hus-
band and
brother.

¹ pellis, cutis, *hyd.* Wright's Vocab.
p. 44.—F.

² their hands rang or wrang.—P.
³ perhaps care.—P.

- 884 to haue a killed a 100 *Knights* & moe,
 & shamefully driuen them to dead
 with-outen succour or any remedeye.¹
 & if thou be comen to fight with that *Knight*,
 If he will
 avenge her,
 let him note
 that Gray-
 Steele's 888 Iesu defend thee in thy right !
 there is noe woman aliue *that* knoweth so weele
 as I doe of the Condictions of Sir Gray-steele,
 for euerye houre from Midnight till noone,
 strength de- 892 eche hower he increaseth the strenght of a man² ;
 croases from
 noon to
 midnight,
 & euery houer from Noone till Midnight,
 euery hower he bateth the strenght of a *Knight*.
 looke thou make thy first counter like a *Knight*,
 896 & enter into his armour bright ;
 looke boldlye vpon him thou breake thy spere
 as a manfull *Knight* in warr³ ;
 then light downe rudlye⁴ for thy best boote⁵ ;
 and that he 900 the tyrant is better on horsbacke then on foote ;
 is better on
 horseback
 than on
 foot,
 presse stiflye vpon him in *that* stoure
 as a *Knight* will thinke⁶ on his paramoure ;
 but I will not bid yee thinke on me,
 904 but thinke on *your* ladye whersoener shee bee ;
 & let not that tyrant, if *that* he wold,
 lett you of *that* couenant *that* Ladye to holde."
 then shee tooke leane of *that* gentle *Knight* ;
 908 to her chamber shee is gone with her maidens bright.
 Next day
 Grime arms,
 Sir Gryme longed sore for the day ;
 the Ostler⁷ soone can him arraye,
 he armed the *Knight* & brought him his steede,
 912 & he gaue him red gold for his meede.
 a rich brea[k]fast⁸ there was dight,
 & shortlye sett before *that* *Knight*,
 but meate nor drinke none wold hee

¹ remead.—P.² mon.—P.³ weir, Scottice.—P.⁴ readily.—P.⁵ advantage.—P.⁶ who thinks.—P.⁷ i.e. the chamberlain, Hostelier, or
 maitre d'hotel; but see page 140, line
 206 [of MS.]—P.⁸ The *k* added in MS. by P.—F.

916 but a cuppe of wine & soppes 3.
he tooke leaue of *that* Ladye cleare,
& rydeth towards the fresh riuer.¹

takes a cup
of wine, and
rides for-
ward.

[The Fifth Part.]

Early in *that* May morning,
920 merrely when the burds can sing,
the throstlecocke, the Nightingale,
5⁴ *Parte* the laueracke & the wild woodhall,²
the rookes risen in euery riuer,
924 the birds made a blissfull bere³;
It was a heauenly Melodye
pro a Knight that did a louer bee,
on the one side to heare the small birds singing,
928 on the other side the flowers springing.
then drew forth of the dales the dun deere,
the sun it shone both fresh & cleere,
Phebus gott vp with his golden beames,
932 ouer all the land soe light it gleames;
hee looked vpon the other side,
see parkes & palaces of Mickle pryde,
with 7 townes by the salt sea
936 with castles fayre & towers hye.
ouer the riuer were ryding places 2,
& soone Grime chose to the one of tho;
& then he wold noe longer abyde,
940 but into Gray-steeles Land can he ryde;
& yett was feared Sir Gryme the *Knight*
lest he wold haue tarryed him till night;
but, god wott, he had noe cause to doe soe;
944 for Gray-steele had ouer-waches 2.
they went & told their *Master* anon right,
"into *your* Land is comen a *Knight*,

On a merry
May morn,

when birds
make
melody

and the
bright sun
shines,

Grime rides

into Gray-
Steele's land.

Gray-Steele's
watchers
tell him;

¹ riuer.—P.

² Perhaps, wode wal. The witwall
or golden ouzle, a bird of the Thrush

kind. G. ad Chau.—P.

³ bere, noise. vid. page 388, lin. 145
[of MS.]—P.

- and 3^d he hath rydden about the plaine,
 948 And now is he bowne to turne home againe." [page 138.]
 "Nay," sayd Gray-steele, "by St. Iohn!
 this one yeere he shall not goe home,
 but he shall either fight or flee,
 952 or a wed in this land leane shall hee."
 they brought him red sheeld & red spere,
 & all of fresh gold shone his geere;
 his brest plate was purpelye pight,
 956 his helmett itt shone with gold soe bright,
 his shankes full seemlye shone,
 was sett with gold & precious stone,
 his armes with plate & splents¹ dight
 960 were sett with gold & siluer bright;
 with his sheelde on his brest him beforne,
 theron was a dragon & a vnicorne;
 on the other side a beare & a wyld bore,
 964 in the Middest a ramping Lyon *that* wold byt[e²] sore;
 about his necke withouten fayle
 a gorgett rought with rich Mayle,
 with his helme sett on his head soe hye;
 968 a mase³ of gold full royallye,
 on the top stoode a Carbuncle⁴ bright,
 it shone as Moone doth in the night;
 his saddle with selcamoure⁵ was sett,
 972 with barrs of gold richlye frett;
 his petrill⁶ was of silke of Inde,
 his steed was of a furley⁷ kinde,
 with raines of silke raught to his hand,
- he dons his
armour red
and gold,
- his sheld
on his
brest be-
fore him,
- his golden
mace set
with jewels,
- his steed
with bells

¹ Splints. Small overlapping plates for the defence of the bend of the arm above the elbow, and which allowed of free motion. They are mentioned as early as Edward the Third's time. Fairholt's *Costume in England*, p. 586.—F.

² The *e* added in MS. by Percy.—F.

³ mace.—P.

⁴ topas.—P.

⁵ Cp. "Ciclaton, a rich stuff from India. K. Alysaunder, 1964. Fr. *ciglaton*; Lat. *cyclas*." Herbert Coleridge's Glossary.—F.

⁶ petrill.—P. Petrell, a breastplate. Kennett (in Halliwell). Fr. *Poictrail*, a Petrell for a horse. Cotgrave.—F.

⁷ ferley, i.e. wondrous.—P.

- 976 with bells of gold theratt ringand.¹ of gold on
he stepped into his stirropp well armed in war,² its reins.
a *Knight* kneeled & raught him a spere; He takes a
& then wold he noe longer abyde, spear
- 980 but straight to Sir Grime cold he ryde.
when Grime was ware of Gray-steele,
through comfort his hart came to him weele;
he sayd, "thou wounded my brother Sir Egar!"
- 984 that deed, traytor, thou shall buy full sore.³
Gray-steele answered neuer a word,
but came on Sir Grime as he was woode; and charges
they smoten their steeds with spurres bright, Grime like
988 & ran together with all their might; mad.
but Gray-steele came on Sir Grime
like a lyon in his woodest time;
soe did Grime vpon Sir Gray-steele, Grime runs
- 992 & attilde⁴ him a dint that bote⁵ full weele;
thorow all his armour lesse & more,
cleane thorow the body he him bore, him right
that all his girthers burst in sunder, through
996 the *Knight* & salle⁶ & all came vnder. unhorses
through the strenght of Gryme & his steede him,
he smote downe Gray-steele, & ouer him yeede;
& well perceined Gray-steele then
- 1000 that he was macht with a Noble man.
then young grime start out of stray,⁷ leaps down,
& from his stirrops he light that day;
he thought on that Ladye yore,
- 1004 how shee had taught him to doe before; draws Ege-
king,

¹ Compare Chaucer's Monk (Prol. Cant. Tales, ed. Morris, v. ii. p. 6, l. 169-171):

And whan he rood, men might his bridel
heere
Gyngle in a whistlyng wynd so cleere,
And eek as lowde as doth the chapel
belle.—F.

² weir. q.—P.

³ sair.—P.

⁴ attilde, i.e. etiled, aimed, Scot.—P.

⁵ did bite.—P.

⁶ saddle.—P.

⁷ ? *stray* here must be from *extra*, on the outside, without, as in the ordinary sense of *stray*, but with the meaning of "on the outside of the horse, the saddle."—F.

- he shooke out his sword Egeking ;
the other mett him manfully without leasing ;
Grime sought him on one side
- and cuts through Gray-Steele's armour 1008 & raught him a wound full wyde ;
a 100^d Mailes he shore assunder,
& all the stuffe *that* was there vnder ;
throughout all his armour bright,
- five inches into his shoulder. 1012 5 inch into the sholder, the sword light.
but Gray-steele neuer with noe man mett
that 2 such dints did on him sett ;
- Gray-Steele pays him back 1016 then thought Gray-steele, *that* warryour wight,
to quitt Sir Grime *that* Noble Knight :
He hytt him on the helme on hye [page 139.]
that the fire as flynt out can flye ;
or euer he cold handle Egeking againe,
- with three blows that nearly kill him ; 1020 3 doughtye dints he sett on him certaine
that almost Sir Gryme was slaine,
the least of them might haue beene a mans bane.
thus these Noble burnes¹ in battele
- 1024 hacked & hewed with Swords of Mettle.
through rich many & myny plee²
the red blood blemished both their blee.
- but Grime 1028 Sir Grime was learned in his child-hood
full Noblye to handle a sworde ;
with an arkward stroke ffull slee³
- wounds Gray-Steele in one knee. 1032 he hitt Sir Gray-Steele on the knee ;
if he were neuer soe wight of hand,
on the one foote he might but stand :
" thou wounded my brother Sir Egar ;
that deed thou shalt aby full sore⁴ ! "
- 1036 then answered Gray-steele, *that* warryour wight,
" wherefore vpbraydest thou me with *that* Knight ? "
⁵ " for he neuer went by watter nor Lande,

¹ barnes, i.e. men.—P.² It should be Mail & many plie. See Reliques, vol. I. pag. 10, ver. 21 & Glos.—P.³ sly.—P.⁴ sair.—P.⁵ Grime answered.—P.

- but he was as good as [t]he¹ both of hart & hand ;
 & hee had beene weaponed as well as I
 1040 he had beene worth both thee & mee."
 he hitt Sir Gryme on the cainell² bone ;
 a quarter of his sheeled away his gone³ ;
 the other he claue in tow
 1044 that it ffell into the feyld soe far him froe ;
 his Noble sword Egeking
 went from him without Leasing.
 but Grime was wight upon the land,
 1048 he followed fast after & gatt his brand ;
 but on⁴ Gray-Steele had had his other foote
 to haue holpen him in neede and boote,
 I cold not thinke how Gryme the Knight
 1052 shold haue comen againe to that Ladye bright.
 when he had gotten againe Ege-king,
 fell were the dints he sett on him ;
 with an arkeward stroke full sore
 1056 through Liuer & longs Gray-steele he bore.
 Gray-Steele went walling⁵ woode
 when his sydes fomed of his harts blood ;
 then perceined the Knight Sir Grime
 1060 that Gray-Steele was in poynt of time.
 Grime sayd, "yeeld thee, Sir Gray-steele,
 for thou can neuer doe⁶ soe weele."
 the other said, "thou mayst lightlye lye ;
 1064 that man shall I neuer see ;
 that man was neuer of woman borne
 shall make me yeelde, one man to one."

Gray-Steele
hitts Grime
on the
collar-bone,

and knocks
his sword
out of his
hand.

Grime
recovers it,

cuts Gray-
Steele

through the
liver and
lungs,

and calls on
him to
yield.

¹ thee both.—P.
² The *Cainell* or *Kennel bone* of the
neck is still current in Northamptonshire.
 See *Canal bone* in Bailey's Dict.—P.
 "But swiche a fairenesse of a nekke
 Had[de] that swete, that boon nor
 brekke,
 Nas ther noon seen that mys-satte ;
 Hyt was white, smothe, streght, and
 pure flatte,

Withouten hole or *canal* boon,
 As be samynge had[de] she noon."
 Chaucer. *The Boke of the Duchesse*, l.
 942, vol. v., p. 183, ed. Morris, 1866.—
 F.
³ is gone.—P.
⁴ and [=if].—P.
⁵ i.e. boiling, raging mad.—P.
⁶ get on, fight.—F.

- In return,
Gray-Steele
- 1068 he was soe angry att Grimes words
that both his hands he sett on his sword,
& with all his strenght *that* was in him Leade,¹
he sett itt on Sir Grimes heade
that such a stroke he neuer gate,
1072 nor noe *Knight* that was his mate.
he thought his head roue² assunder,
his necke cracked *that* was vnder,
his eares brushed³ out of blood.
1076 the *Knight* stackered⁴ with *that* stroke, & stoode,
for & he & had⁵ once fallen to the ground,
the Lady had neuer seene him sound.
thus they fought together fell & sore
At last, 1080 the space of a mile and somthing more.
Gray-steele bled withouten fayle,
his visage waxed pan and wale⁶;
Grime grips
Gray-Steele
by the
throat,
throws him
down, and
kills him. 1084 Grime att his gorgett he gate a gripe, [page 140.]
& fast he followed in after itt,
& backward to the ground he him bare ;
he let him neuer recouer more ;
his brest-plate from him he cast,
1088 & thrise to the hart he him thrust :
thus vngracious deeds without mending
can neuer scape without an ill endinge.
all this I say by Sir Gray-Steele,
1092 for fortune had led him long and weele ;
I haue wist *that Knight* with his hands tow
slay 100 *Knights* and moe,
shamefullye driuen them to dead
Gray-Steele 1096 without succour or any remed ;
lies slain ; & he lyeth slaine with a poore *Knight*
& for⁷ his sworne brother came to fight.

¹ laid. qu.—P. (or learde, left.—F.) to totter (Wedg.); Scotch *stacker*,
² rove, i.e. riven.—P. *stakker*; Swed. *stagra*. (Jam.).—F.
³ brasted.—P. "To *brusch*, v. n. to & had *may be xhad* in MS.—F.
burst forth, to rush, to issue with vio-
lence. *Wallace*." Jamieson.—F. * wan & pale.—P.
⁴ staggered.—P. Old Norse *stakra*, * that for.—P.

- then Gryme looked by him soone ;
 1100 they ¹ steeds were fighting, as they had done ;
 in sonder he parted the steeds 2 ;
 to Graystees saddle can he goe ;
 he right the Girthes,³ & saddled the steed,
 1104 & againe to the dead body he yeede,
 & pulled forth his Noble Brand,
 & smote of Sir Gray-stees hande :
 " My brother left a finger in this land with thee,
 1108 therfore thy whole hand shall he see."
 hee looked vp to the castle of stone,
 & see ⁴ Ladyes manye a ⁴ one
 wringing, & wayling, & riuing there heare,⁵
 1112 striking, & crying with voices full cleere.
 wight men, they wold not blin,
 horsse & harnesse *pro*⁶ to win :
 it was euer Sir Gray-stees desiring
 1116 that for his death shold be made noe chalishing.⁷
 Grime leapt on Sir Gray-stees steed,
 his owne by the bridle he cold him leade,
 & he rode towards the fresh riuer,⁸
 1120 there was noe man durst nye him nere ;
 yett it was an howre within the night
 before he came againe to *that* Ladye bright.
 he rode strayght to the burgesse dore,
 1124 the ostler mett him on the flore :
 " O Master ! " he sayd, " now is come *that* Knight
 that went hence when the day was light ;
 he hath brought with him Sir Gray-stees steede,
 1128 & much more of his golden weede ;
 he hath brought with him his chaine of gold—

Grime takes
his steed,

cuts off his
hand,

leaps on
the steed,

and rides
back to his

lady.

¹ their.—P.

² righted the girths. qu.—P.

³ saw.—P.

⁴ Only half the *n* in the MS.—F.

⁵ hair.—P.

⁶ *pro*, i.e. for.—P.

⁷ Fr. *chaloir*: importer, se soucier,

avoir soin, se mettre en peine, prendre
soin, de *calere*. Roquesfort. I care nat,
I regarde nat or estyme nat a thyng: *Il*
ne men chault. Palsgrave. *Se chaloir*
de, to passe, care, take thought for.

Cotgrave.—F.

⁸ *rivere*.—P.

- his saddle harnes is fayre to behold,—
 with other more of his golden geere;
 1132 in all this land there is none such to were.”
 then to the dore fast cold they hye,
 bold men & yeamanrye.¹
 the Burgesse asked the *Knight*
 Grime re- 1136 whether he wold lodg with him all night.
 fuses to stop
 in the town, Grime sayd, “to lye in a strange Land—
 & here is a strong Castle att hand—
 methinke itt were a great follye;
 but goes to 1140 I wott not who is my freind or my enemye.”
 his lady's
 chamber. hee tooke the hand, & the gloue of gold soe gay
 to the Ladyes chamber he tooke the way
 att supper where shee was sett,
 1144 but neuer a Morsel might shee eate:
 “a!” shee sayd,² “now I thinke on *that Knight*
 She is la- 1144 *that* went from me when the day was light!
 menting his yesternight to the chamber I him Ledd;
 death, 1148 this night Gray-steele hath made his bed!
 alas! he is foule lost on him!
 that is much pittye for all his kine!
 for he is large of blood & bone,
 1152 & goodlye nurture lacketh he none;
 & he his³ fayre in armes to fold,
 He is worth to her his waight in gold; [page 141.]
 woe is me, for his lone in his cuntrye!
 and think- 1156 shee may thinke longe or she him see!”
 ing on her
 lost hus- with *that* she thought on her Lord Attelstone
 band, that they water out of her eyen ran.
 when Grime 1160 with *that* Grime knocked att the chamber dore,
 knocks at
 the door. & a maiden stooode ther on⁴ the flore;
 “O Madam!” shee said, “now is come *that Knight*
 that went hence when the day was light.”
 She rises, & hastilye from the bord she rise,

¹ yeomanrye.—P. ² Ah! shees⁴.—P. cp. l. 1227-8, p. 57.—F.³ is.—P. ? his fair one, his love; but⁴ MS. theron.—F.

- 1164 & kissed him 20 sithe¹ :
 " how haue you farren² on your Iourney ? "
 " full well, my loue," Sir Grime did say,
 " for I haue taken such a surtye³ on yonder Knight
 1168 that pore men in his country may haue right ;
 Merchants may both buy and sell
 within the lands where they doe dwell."
 he gaue her the hand & the gloue gay,
 1172 & sayd, " lay vp this till itt be day."
 shee tooke the gloue att⁴ him,
 but shee wist not that they hand was in ;
 & as they stooode still on the ground,
 1176 the hand fell out ther in⁵ that stond,
 & when shee looked on that hand
 that had slaine her brother and her husband,
 noe marueill though her hart did grisse,⁶
 1180 the red blood in her face did rise :
 it was red rowed⁷ for to see,
 with fingars more then other three ;
 on euerye finger a gay gold ring,
 1184 a precious stone or a goodly thing ;
 & yet shee hath it vp tane
 & put into the gloue againe,
 & vnto a coffer did shee goe,
 1188 & vnlocked lockes one or 2.
 a rich supper there was dight
 & sett before that worthy Knight,
 but meate nor drinke he might none ;
 1192 he was soe furbrished,⁸ body and bone,
 he longed sore to be a bedd.
 & to a chamber shee him Ledd,

and kisses
him twenty
times.

He gives
her Gray-
Steele's
hand

which had
slain her
husband
and brother,

and she
locks it up,

puts Grime
to bed,

¹ times.—P.

² i.e. fared.—P.

³ suretye.—P.

⁴ i.e. at his hand.—P.

⁵ MS. therin.—F.

⁶ grise.—P. First written *greefe* in the MS. and then corrected.—F.

⁷ colour, *rud* of a cheek: A.-S. *rud*, red.—F.

⁸ *For-brissute*, broken, bruised (Halliwell's Gloss.). Dutch *verbryzeld*, crushed, grinded, bruised (Sewel). A.-S. *brysan*, to bruise; *forbrytan*, to break in pieces, smash, bruise (Bosworth).—F.

- examines
his wounds, 1196 & all his armour of was done,
& the Lady searched his wounds soone.
the Lady¹ was neuer soe soe sounde
when shee saw hee had no death¹ wound¹;
and thinks
she'll marry
him. 1200 for euer thought *that* fayre Ladye
his wedded wife *that* shee shold bee.
& when shee had this done,
to her owne chamber shee went soone;
Then she
takes Gray-
Steele's
hand 1204 she tooke out the hand & the gloue of gold;
to her fathers hall shee sayd shee wold,
att supper when he was sett,
& many Lords withouten lett.
& when shee came into the hall,
1208 finely shee halched² on them all:
to Earl
Gares, "I can tell you tydings, father, will like you weelle;
slaine is your enemye Sir Gray-steelee." (so)
then they laughed all full hastilye,
1212 said, "Maddam, it seemeth to be a lye:
that man was neuer borne of a woman
cold neuer kill Gray-steele, one man to one.³"
shows it
him, 1216 she cast out the hand and the gloue of gold;
all had Marueill did it behold,
for it was red rowed for to see,
with fingars more then other 3,
& on euerye fingar a fine gold ring,⁴
1220 a precious stone or a goodlye thing.
the Erle sayd, "daughter, wher dwelleth *that*
Knight?" [page 142.]
Then answered *that* Ladye both faire [&] bright,
& sayth, "father, his name I cannott myn,⁵
and tells
him who
won it. 1224 but he was borne in the Land of Beame;
he is large of blood & bone,
& goodlye Nurture lacketh none;

¹ There are tags like *esses* to these letters in the MS.—F.

² saluted.—P.

³ man to man. qu.—P.

⁴ One stroke only of the *n* is in the MS.; over it is a mark of contraction.—F.

⁵ mention.—P.

- he is faire in armes to fold,
 1228 he is worth his waight in gold ;
 but he rydeth in the morning when it is day."
 "that I sett gods forbott," the Erle can say,
 "for I wold [not] for¹ a iooo!"
 1232 of florences² red & rounde,
 vnrewarded of me *that* he shold goe
that soe manfully hath nenged mee on my foe."
 Earlye on the other day
 1236 Sir Gryme radylye³ can him array;
 & as hee was his leane takeand,
 the erle came att his hand;
 & when the Erle came him nye,
 1240 Sir Gryme sett⁴ him on his knee,
 & thanked him with humble cheerre
 for the great refreshing he had there.
 the Erle tooke Gryme by the hand,
 1244 & said, "gentle *Knight*, doe thou vpp stand!
 & as thou art a warriour wight,
 tarry with me this day & this night."
 "my Lord," hee said, "I am at your will;
 1248 all your comanndement to fulfill."
 then a squier tooke the steeds tow,
 & to a stable then can he goe;
 the Erle tooke Gryme by the hand,
 1252 to the pallace thé yode Leadand;
 a rich dinner ther men might see,
 of Meate & drinke was great plentye;
 the certaine sooth If I shold say,
 1256 he was meate fellow for⁵ the *Ladye* gay.
 & when the dinner was all done,
 the Erle tooke Grime into a chamber soone,

On the
second day,

Earl Gares
comes to
Grime,

asks him
to stay
another day.

takes him
to the
palace,

seats him at
dinner next
his daugh-
ter,

¹ not for.—P.

² Florins, formerly worth about 3s. 4d.
apiece:

I selle the gyffe ten thousand pounds
Of *florence* that bene rede and rounde.

Sir Isumbras, l. 294–5, in *Thornton Ro-*
mances, p. 100. Halliwell's *Glossary*.—F.

³ The top of the *a* in *radylye* is open,
nearly like *u*.—F.

⁴ *i.e.* knelt down.—P.

⁵ *i.e.* messmate to, &c.—P.

- & spurred¹ him gentlye,
 asks him if he's married, 1260 "Sir, beene you marryed in your countrye?"
 Grime answered him hastilye,
 "I had neuer wiffe nor yett Ladye :
 and on Grime say- 1264 I tell you truly, by *Saint Iohn*,
 ing no, I had neuer wiffe nor yett Lemman."
 the Erle sayd, "I am glad indeede,
 offers him his daugh- 1268 for I haue a daughter *that* is my heyre
 ter. of all my Lands, *that* is soe faire ;
 & if thou wilt wed *that* Ladye free,
 with all my hart I will giue her thee."
 Grime ac- 1272 great thankes Gryme to him can make ;
 cepts her, saith, "I loue her to well to forsake!"
 and afore the Erle & Bishoppes 3
 Gryme handfasted² *that* faire Ladye.
 the betrothal 1276 the day of Marryage itt was sett,
 is made, *that* Gryme shold come againe without Let.
 the Erle feitchd him in *that* stonde
 2 robes was worth 400!
 they were all beaten gold begon ;—
 1280 he gaue Egar the better when he came home.—
 and Grime rides home. he tooke Leauē of the Erle & the Ladye,
 & rydes home into his countrye.

[The Sixth Part.]

- When Grime reaches a forest near home, 1284
 6th Parte { He came to a forrest a priuie way,
 & leaueth his steed & his palfray ;
 & when he had soe doone,
 he goes on foot to his room, 1288 { he went to his chamber right soone,
 & priuilye knocked on the dore,
 [&] Palyas his brother stood on the flore.

¹ spurred, i.e. asked him.—P.² plighted hands, i.e. betrothed.—P.
 A.-S. *handfastan*, to pledge one's hand.
 Of Mary's betrothal to Joseph, the *Ormu-**lum* (i. 81, l. 2389-90) says:& zho was *hannafest* an god mann
 þatt Josæp was gehattenn.—F.

- Palyas was neuer more glad & blyth [page 143.]
when he see his brother come home aline.
"how fareth Sir Egar?" Sir Grime can say.
1292 "the better *that* you haue sped on your Iourney."
"rise, Sir Egar, & arme thee weele
both in Iron & in steele, tells Eger
to arm,
& goe into yonder forreste free, go to the
forest,
1296 & Pallyas my Brother shall goe with thee;
& there thou shalt find Sir Gray-steeles steed,
& much more of his golden weede; take Gray-
Steele's
steed and
armour,
there thou shalt find his chaine of gold,
1300 his saddle harnessse full fayre to behold,
with other more of his golden geere;
in all this land is none such to weare.
to-morrow when the sunn shineth bright,
1304 Looke thou gett into thy Ladyes sight,
& looke thou as strange to her bee
as shee in times past hath been to thee;
for & thou doe not as shee hath done before,
1308 thou shalst loose my loue for euermore."
then forth went Egar & Pallyas
where the steeds & steuen¹ was.
a scarlett Mantle Grime hath tane;
1312 to the Erles chamber hee his gone
with still Mourning & sighing sore,² Grime goes
to Earl
Bragas,
"alas! slaine is my brother Sir Egar!
for 7 dayes are comen and gone
1316 sith he promised me to bee att home;
he rode forth wounded verry sore;
alas! my sorrow is much the more!
thy³ great pride of thy daughter free
1320 made him in this great perill to bee;
alas *that* euer shee was borne!
the best Knight *that* euer was in this world is
forlorne!"

¹ ? stuffs. O. Fr. *estouvoir*, conven- est nécessaire. Roquefort.—F.
ance, nécessité, provision de tout ce qui ² sair.—P. ³ the.—P.
H 2

- Gryme vpon his way can goe ;
 the Erle & the Countesse were full woe ;
 then they bowned¹ them both more & lesse
 to the parish church to hear a Masse.
 when the Masse was all done,
 to the pallace thé went full soone.
 one looked betwene him & the sunn,
 sais, "methinkes I see tow armed *Knights* come."
 another sayd, "Nay indeed,
 it is an armed *Knight* ryding, and leads a steede."
 & when they *Knight* came them neere,
 all wist it was Sir Egar ;
 but Gryme was the first man
*that euer welcomed Sir Egar home.*²
 the Erle tooke Egars hand in his,
 the countesse cold him comlye Kisse ;
 his own Lady winglaine wold haue done soe ;
 he turned his backe & rode her free,
 & said, "parting is a priuye payne,
 but old freinds³ cannott be called againe !
 for the great kindnesse I haue found att thee,
 fforgotten shalt thou neuer bee."
 he turned his steede in *that* tyde,
 & said to Garnwicke he wold ryde.
 the Lady sooned⁴ when he did goe ;
 the Erle & the Countesse were full woe ;
 the Erle profered Gryme 40^{li} of Land,⁵
 of florences *that* were fayre & round,
 for to gett the good will of Egar his daughter to :
 I hope *that* was ethe⁶ to doe.
 Grime went forth on his way,
 & faire words to Egar [can he say? :]
 "abyde & speake a word with mee,

¹ *i.e.* made them ready.—P.² hame.—P.³ friendes.—P.⁴ swooned.—P.⁵ Londe.—P.⁶ A.-S. *edð*, easy.—F.⁷ MS. partly cut away : words read by Percy.—F.

- 1356 Brother," he said, "for Charitye." [page 144.]
 Egar sayd, "here I am at your will;
 whatere you command, Ile fulfill."
 a squier tooke his steeds tow,
 1360 & to a stable can he goe.
 Gryme tooke Egar by the hand,
 to their owne chamber they went Leadand,
 & all his armour of hath done,
 1364 & laid it downe where he put it on.
 Gryme feitched forth tow robes in *that* stond,
 the worse was worth 400¹ puts robes
 of beaten
 gold on him,
 thé were all of beaten gold begon:
 1368 he put the better Egar on;
 then was Egar the seemlyest man¹
that was in all Christendonne.
 Gryme tooke him by the hand,
 1372 to the palace thé yode Leadand²: leads him to
 the palace,
 a rich dinner there Men might see,
 Meate & drinke there was plentye;—
 certaine sooth if I shold say,
 1376 he was meate fellow with the Ladye gay;—
 & when the dinner was all done,
 Grime tooke the Erle to counsell soone:
 "as my Lord Egar is the Knight and tells
 Earl Bragas
 1380 *that* winneth the worshipp in euery fight,
 & if hee shall haue your daughter free,
 att your owne will I haue gotten him to bee;
 I read anon *that* it were done." that Eger
 will marry
 her.
 1384 the Erle & the Countesse accorded soone;
 the Erle sent forth his messenger
 to great Lords both far & neere,
that they shold come by the 15 day The nobles
 are sum-
 moned to
 the wedding.
 1388 to the marryage of his daughter gay.
 & there Sir Egar, *that* Noble Knight,
 Married winglayne, *that* Ladye Bright.

¹ mon.—P.

² yode leadand (went leading).—P.

- the feast
lasts forty
days,
- 1392 the feast it Lasted fortye dayes,
with *Lords & Ladyes* in royall arrayes ;
& at the 40 dayes end,
euerye man to his owne home wend,
eche man home into his countrie ;
- and then
Eger and
Grime ride
to Earle
Gares,
- 1396 soe did Egar, Grime, & Pallyas, all 3,
they neuer stinted nor blan,¹
to Earle Gares Land till thé came.
the Erle wist he wold be there,
- 1400 he mett them with a royal fere,²
with a 100 *Knights* in royall array
mett Egar & Grime in the way,
with much myrth of *Minstrelsy*,
- who wel-
comes them,
and Grime
weds the
Lady Loose-
paine.
- 1404 & welcomed them into *that* countrie ;
& there Sir Gryme, *that Noble Knight*,
marryed Loosepine, *that Ladye* bright.
why was shee called Loospaine ?
- 1408 a better Leech was none certaine.
a royall wedding was made there,³
as good as was the other before ;
& when 5 dayes done did⁴ hee,
- All ride into
Gray-Steele's
and,
- 1412 Egar desired all the Erles meanye
to ryde with him into Gray-steeles Land,
to resigne all into his brothers hand.
they chose Pallyas to be their *Captain* wight ;
- 1416 the Erle dubd him, and made a *Knight*,
& by counsell of *Lords* with him did bee,
hee gaue him a 100⁵ of fee.
then wold they noe longer abyde,
- 1420 but into Gray-steeles Land can they ryde ;
they brake his *parkes* & killed his deere,
rasen⁶ his hauens & shipps soe Cleere ;
They tooke townes & castles of stone.
- kill his deer,
destroy his
ships,
- 1424 Gray-steele had neuer a child but one

[page 145.]

¹ desisted.—P.² company.—P.³ thore.—P.⁴ had.—P.⁵ razed.—P.

- that was a daughter fayre & free ;*
vntill that castle shee did flee ;
Egar tooke that Lady, as I vnderstand,
1428 *& brought her into Earle Gares land.*
when that Ladye the Earle did see,
shee kneeled downe vpon her knee,
& said, "if my father were a tyrant & your enemye,
1432 *neuer take my Land froe me."*
the Erle sayd, "for thy curtesye
all the better the matter may bee :
for to weld thy Land & thee
1436 *choose thee any Knight that thou he[r]e see."*
amongst all that there was
shee chose vnto Pallyas.
glad & blythe was Baron & Knight,
1440 *soe were Egar & Gryme that were soe wight ;*
& there Sir Pallyas, that Noble Knight,
marryed Emyas that was soe bright.
a royall wedding was made thore,
1444 *as good as was the other before.*
I neuer wist man that proued soe weeke
as did Sir Grime vpon Sir Gray-steele,
for he gate to his brother Sir Egar
1448 *an Erles Land & a ladye faire ;*
he gate himselfe an Erles lande,
the fairest Lady that was Liuande ;
he gate his brother Pallyas
1452 *a barrons daughter & a Barronage.*
Winglaine bare to Sir Egar
10 children that were fayre ;
10 of them were sonnes wight,
1456 *& 5, daughters fayre in sight.*
& Loosepine bare to Sir Grime
10 children in short time ;
7 of them sonnes was,
1460 *& 3 were daughters faire of face.*

and let his
daughter
Emyas

chooses
Pallyas for
her hus-
band.

Pallyas and
Emyas are
married.

Well done,
Sir Grime!

you've set up
Sir Egar,
yourself and

Pallyas.

Egar has
fifteen
children,

Grime ten,

Pallyas
three.

- Emyeas bare to Sir Pallyas
3 Children in short spacee ;
2 of them sonnes were,
1464 the 3 was a daughter faire and cleere ;
after, shee was marryed to a *Knight*
that proued both hardye & wight.
there was noe man in noe countrye ;
1468 *that* durst displease those brethren 3 :
for 2 of them were Erles free,
the 3^d was a Barron in his countrye ;
& thus they liued & made an end.¹
1472 to the blisse of heauen their soules bringe !
I pray Iesus *that* wee² soe may
bring vs the blisse *that* Lasteth aye !

God bring
them all to
blisse, and
us too !
Amen !

ffins.

¹ endinge, *sic leg^m*.—P.

² hee.—P.

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